





## JIM KRAUSE



CINCINNATI, OHIO www.howdesign.com

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Design Basics Index, Type Idea Index, Color Index 2,
Photo Idea Index, Photo Idea Index: Places,
Photo Idea Index: Things and Creative Sparks.

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## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to *Color Index*, *Revised Edition*. Since its initial publication in 2001, *Color Index* has gained worldwide popularity (the original English version has been translated into four additional languages) and has proven to be an indispensable creativity tool for graphic designers and artists of all kinds.

Given its record of popularity and success, rest assured that the original content of *Color Index* has not been tampered with in this edition. In addition to modest text revisions, the updates in this release affect two subtle—yet significant—aspects of the book's presentation and functionality. First of all, this edition makes use of Adobe's formulas for converting CMYK colors to RGB. Adobe's conversion methods were used here for the sake of greater accuracy and because these formulas have become a worldwide standard since the time *Color Index* was first published. (This book's companion volume, *Color Index* 2, also uses Adobe's conversion formulas.)

The other upgrade available through this release is especially noteworthy: This edition offers readers a link to downloadable digital swatches for each of its color combinations (go to www. mydesignshop.com/swatches). This gives readers an extremely efficient way of importing the book's palettes into their Illustrator, InDesign or Photoshop documents.

### Who is Color Index, Revised Edition for?

Graphic designers, web designers, artists, photographers, interior designers, animators, packaging specialists, sign makers and fabric designers are among the creative types that will find fuel for expression in the pages ahead. By providing over a thousand

combinations of colors—assembled from hundreds of varied hues—this book offers professionals, amateurs and students of visual media a valuable resource for exploring palettes that could be applied to all sorts of projects.

### How is Color Index, Revised Edition structured?

Color Index, Revised Edition has been divided into 11 chapters: Basics, Active, Quiet, Progressive, Rich, Muted, Culture/Era, Natural, Accent, Logo Ideas and Browser Safe.

Keep in mind, however, that these labels are simply meant to organize the book's content into general categories: they are not meant as absolutes (after all, the effects of color depend greatly on the context in which they appear and the tastes of the viewing audience). Allow your artistic instincts to play a significant role in guiding you toward effective palettes. Keep these instincts sharp by paying attention to the colors used in cutting edge advertisements and magazines, as well as in historic examples of commercial and fine arts.

## How can I use Color Index, Revised Edition?

Simply put, the best way to use this book is however you like. Use it to explore color ideas before, during or after you begin to work on a project's specifics; use the book's palettes just as they are presented or as jumping-off places for palettes of your own; enter the book's color formulas into your computer documents using your keyboard or by downloading the swatches digitally (as mentioned earlier). The main thing to remember—especially if you are using the computer to apply colors to a project—is to

take advantage of the inherent flexibility of digital media as you explore options and consider alternatives.

There are a couple of aids in the book that you might find useful as you narrow your search for useable color schemes. One is the narrow strip of colors along the edge of each page. Since these strips of color relate to their chapter's content, you may wish to scan these bands of swatches as you thumb through the book in search of a chapter (or sub-section) that offers the kinds of colors you're after.

Another aid can be created by removing the final page from the book and cutting out its rectangular windows to create a pair of viewing masks. These masks can be placed over the book's color samples—allowing you to view specific illustrations without being distracted or influenced by the colors in nearby examples.

Thank you for picking up a copy *Color Index, Revised Edition*. I hope it adds to the beauty and communicative powers of your creative work.



\*Please note: The color formulas presented in this book have been checked for accuracy, but the potential for error still exists. Color Index, Revised Edition, its author and publisher cannot accept responsibility for errors in the formulas presented in this book. It is strongly recommended that you cross-check print formulas with a reliable process color guide, carefully inspect printer's proofs and press-check all jobs for accurate color.

## **DEFINITIONS**

The following terms and abbreviations are used throughout this book to define colors. See pages 30–31 for definitions of *bue*, *saturation*, *value* and other color related terms.



CMYK: C=CYAN (BLUE); M=MAGENTA; Y=YELLOW; K=BLACK

All colors of standard offset printing are achieved through combinations of these four colors of ink. This kind of printing is usually referred to as four color process printing. The density of each color within a particular mix determines the final hue. These densities are listed as percentages next to each illustration.

#### RGB: R=RED; G=GREEN; B=BLUE

Computer monitors and video displays use differing amounts of these three hues to create their entire color spectrum. 100% values of each hue results in a white screen. An absence of each hue results in a dark screen. Colors are created by varying the intensities of the three hues. The values for each hue (ranging from 0 to 255) are listed next to each color sample.

### HEXIDECIMAL (HEX) VALUES

A byte-oriented sequence of six-character values that can be used to represent RGB colors. Chapter 11 makes use of "browser safe" hex values—colors that can be displayed without dithering (the inclusion of an unwanted pattern of dots) on traditional 8-bit monitors.



## 1: BASICS

This chapter focuses on the color wheel's primary hues: red, yellow and blue. (See pages 30-31 for definitions of color related terms).

Many cultures ascribe simple spiritual and life-oriented meanings to these basic hues: Red—the color of blood—is often associated with vitality, heat and anger; blue—because of its connection to clear sky and calm water—regularly plays soothing roles within designs and works of art; and sunny yellow is often asked to deliver connotations of positive energy and growth.

Primary colors are also favorites of designers whose aim is to target younger audiences and bolster "back-to-basics" messages.

### **Brainstorming the Basics:**

Which color should dominate your layout or illustration? Red: which red? Blue: what kind of blue? Yellow: bright, pale, pure, orange-yellow, green-yellow? Experiment.

Use all colors full strength?
Mute or lighten some of them?

Try out combinations of two colors. Three. Four. More?

Would your palette of primary hues look best against a backdrop of black, white or gray? A neutral tone? A color?

A layout or illustration can be flooded with color. Colors can also be applied sparingly.

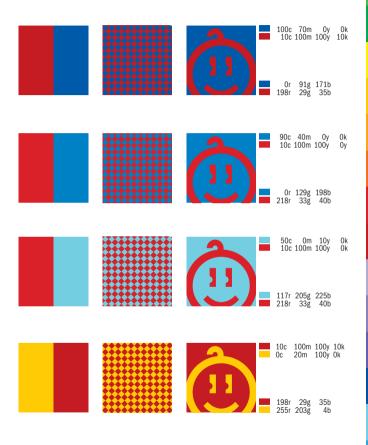
What about using your palette to color the layout's typography as well as its images?

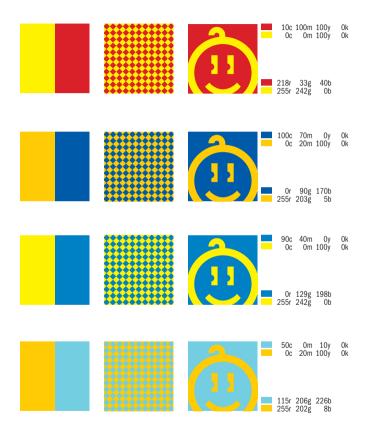
Consider applying your palette in unexpected ways. (See pages 120–121.)

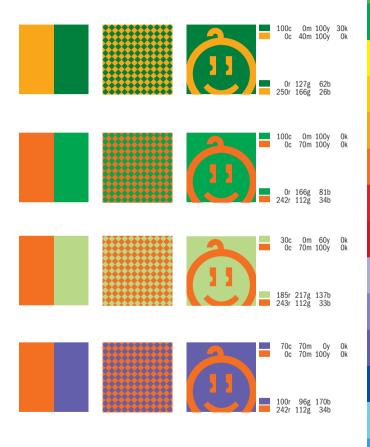
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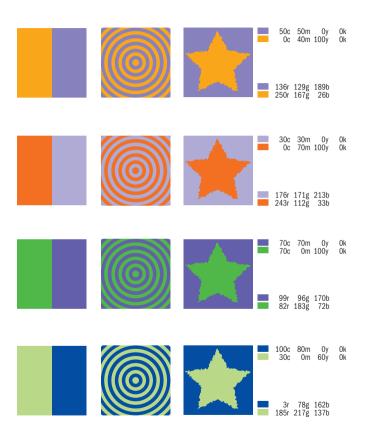


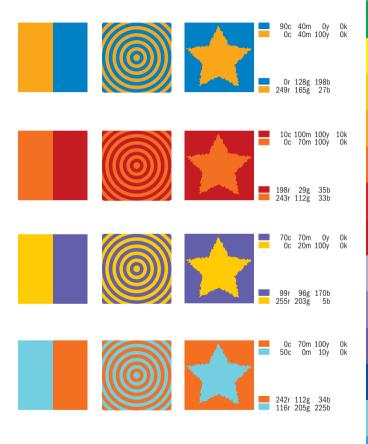




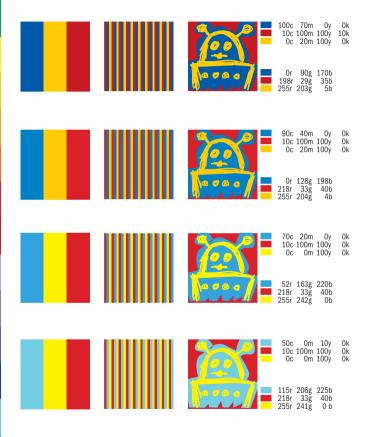


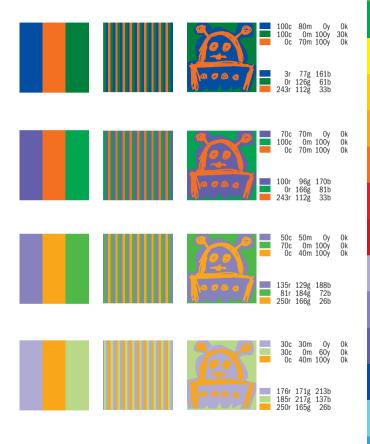


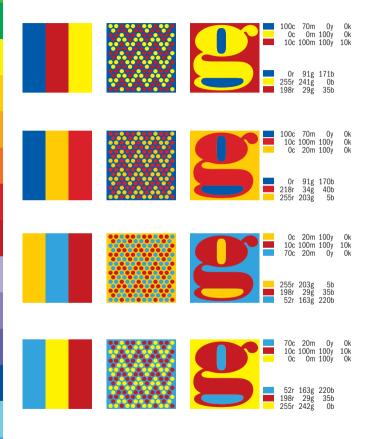


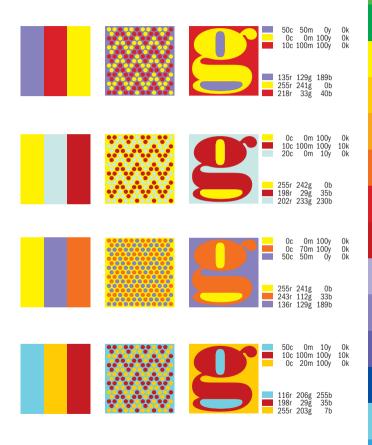


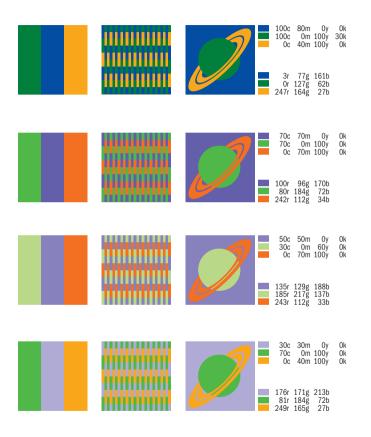
#### BASICS

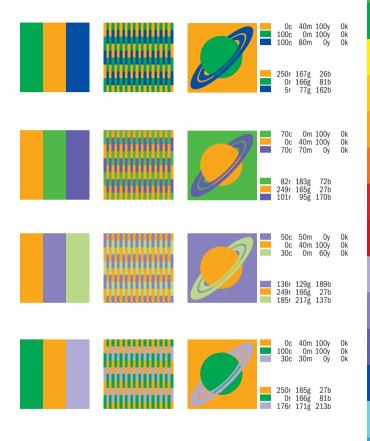


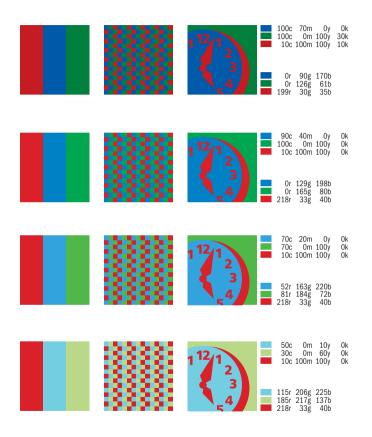


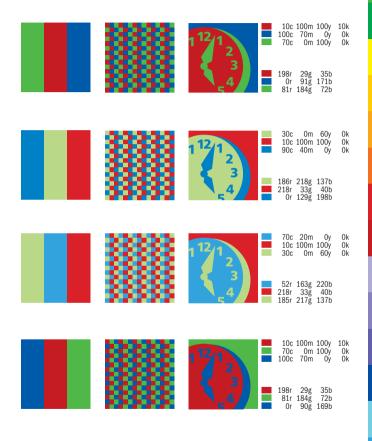


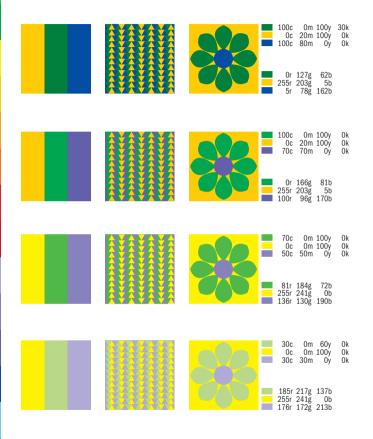


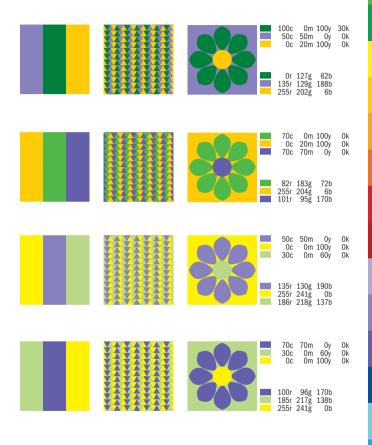












# **COLOR FUNDAMENTALS**

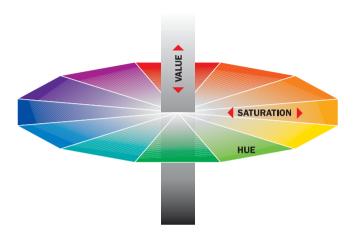


The most basic and common way to describe colors and their relation to each other is in terms of the color wheel.

The *primary* colors—red, yellow and blue—make up three of the wheel's spokes.

Halfway between each primary hue (color) are the *secondary* hues of orange, green and violet. *Tertiary* colors are represented by the slices in between the primary and secondary spokes.

A color's *complement* is the hue located directly across on the color wheel. For example, the complement of red is green and the complement of red-violet is yellow-green.

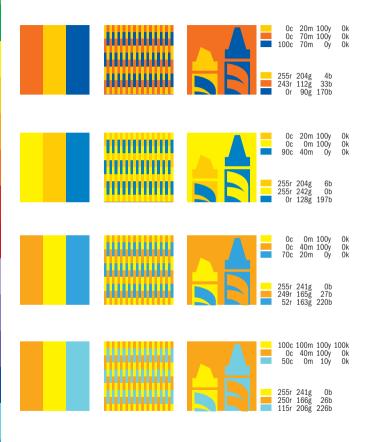


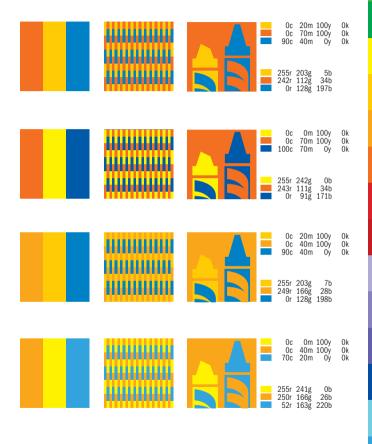
Hue, saturation and value are three characteristics used to describe the appearance of a specific color.

Hue: Another word for color.

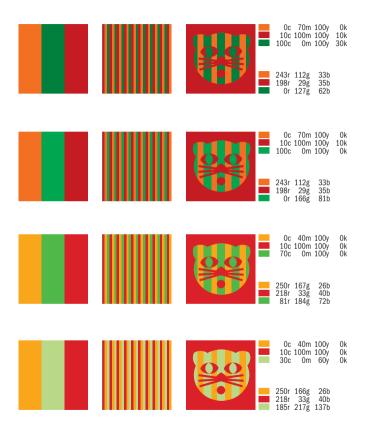
**Saturation:** The purity of a hue. A fully saturated color is a hue at its most intense. When a color is muted by the addition of its complement, black or a neutral tone, it becomes less saturated.

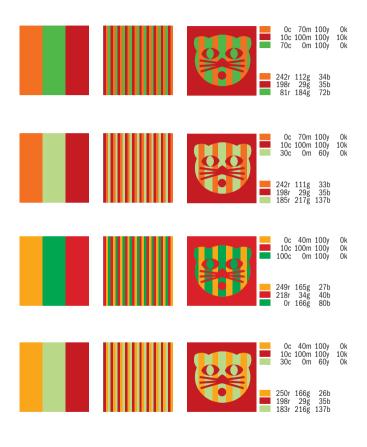
Value: how light or dark a color appears relative to black or white. A dark yellow's value, therefore, might be equivalent to a medium or light value of blue.

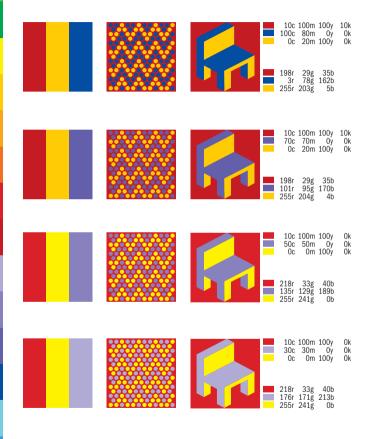


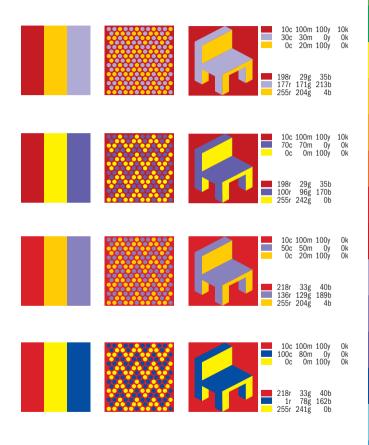


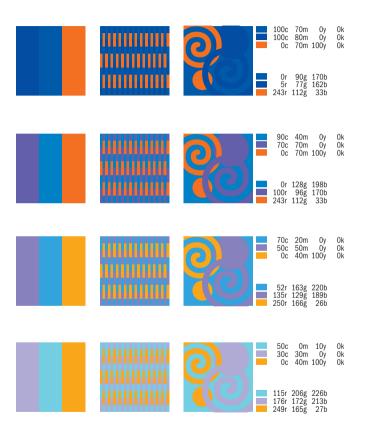
#### BASICS

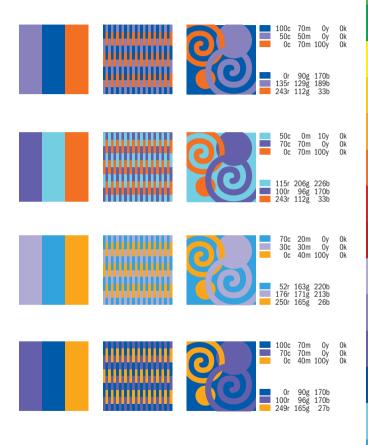




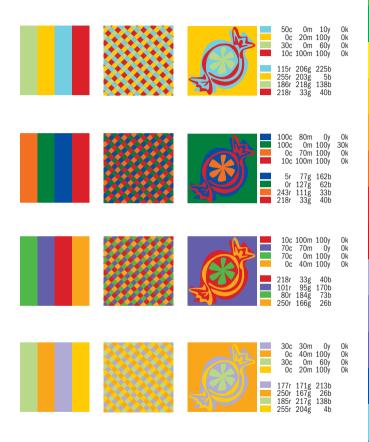


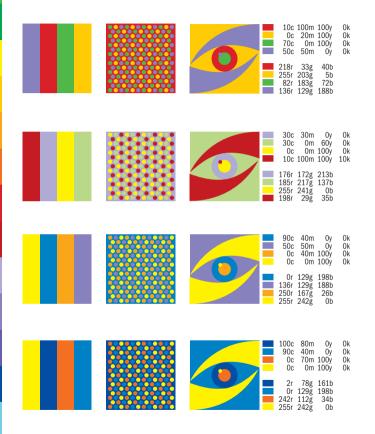


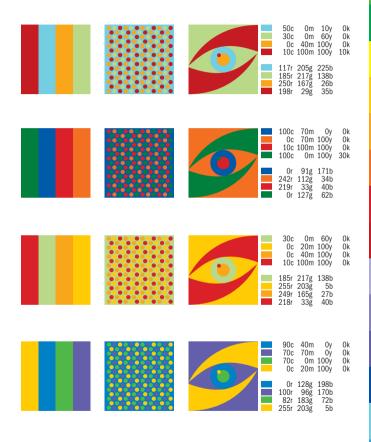












## 2: ACTIVE

In this chapter: intense hues are borrowed from around the color wheel. Combinations of saturated primary, secondary and tertiary colors (defined on pages 30–31) are featured on the pages ahead.

To many people, palettes of intense colors such as these suggest sport, travel and excitement. Most of these hues are not considered "natural" colors, but since they are often exaggerations of natural hues, they can be used to convey a sense of adventure and the outdoors.

Palettes such as those featured in this chapter are often directed toward young people and active adults. More sedentary audiences might also be targeted with vibrant hues—though perhaps through palettes that also contain a mixture of restrained shades. (Chapter 6, *Muted*, pages 172–203, features several such palettes).

## **Brainstorming Active Hues:**

View media aimed toward younger audiences for ideas. Take a look at children's books, youth fashions, toys and the colors of sports teams.

Investigate triadic, split complementary, analogous and monochromatic schemes. (See pages 58–59.)

What background best emphasizes your bright colors? White? Black? Gray or a neutral? A muted color?

Try combining hues of similar values, hues of contrasting values, hues that are similarly saturated, or hues with varied levels of saturation.

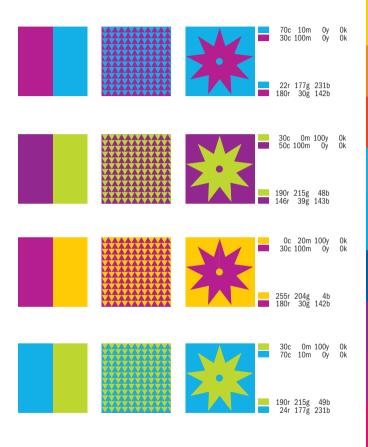
Should your palette be composed entirely of warmer hues, cooler colors or a mixture of both?

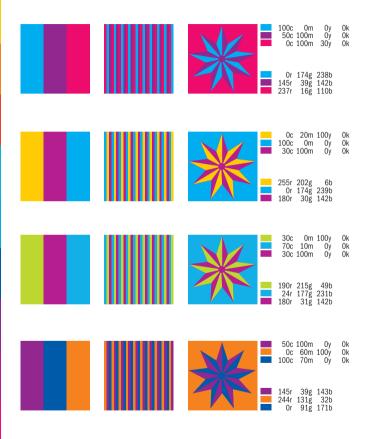
What about adding visual separators between the colors you are using? (See pages 88–89.)

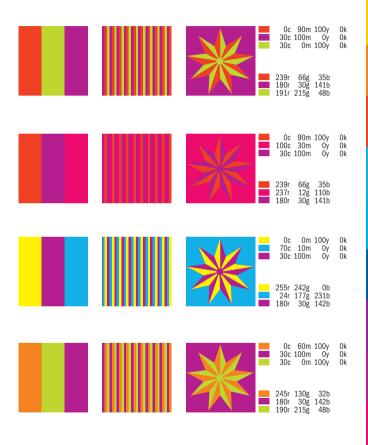
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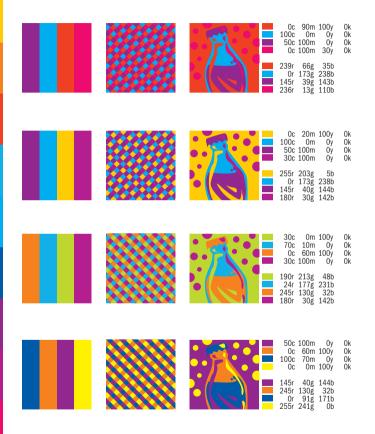


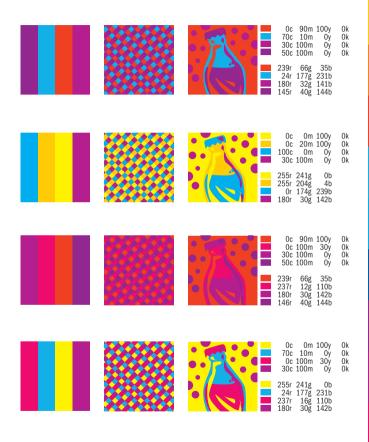






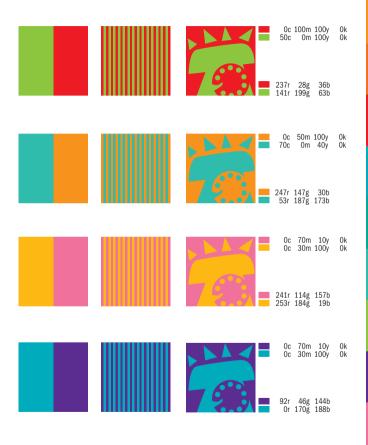


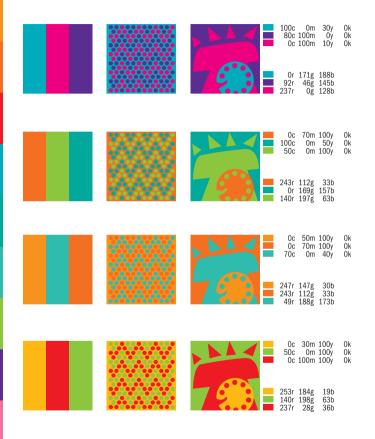


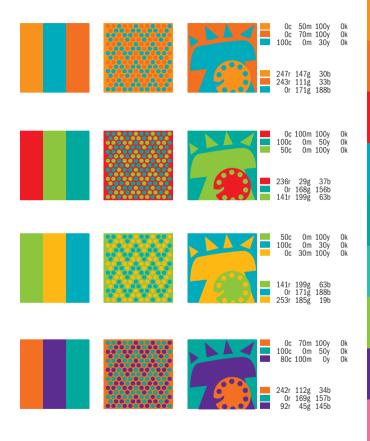




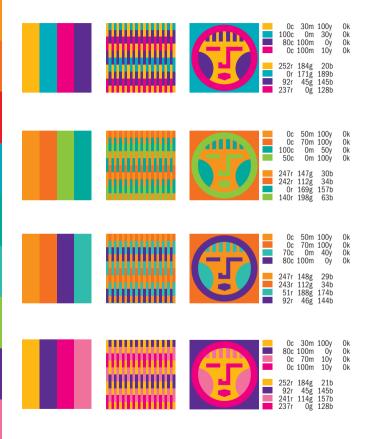


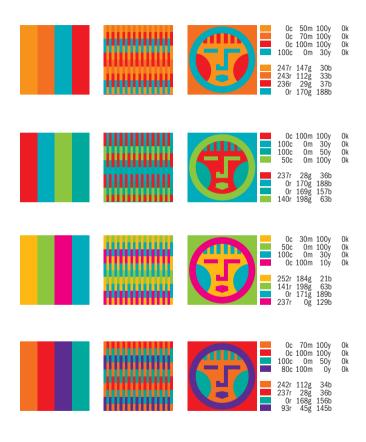






#### ACTIVE





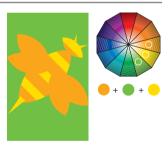
# **QUICK COLOR COMBINATIONS**

Begin by selecting a color that will enforce your message conceptually while appealing to your target audience. This is your "foundation color." Now look for companion hues to add to your foundation color by exploring the following relationships: analogous, split complementary, triadic and monochromatic.

If your foundation color is muted, try muting the other colors similarly. Also see what happens when it is combined with colors that are fully saturated.

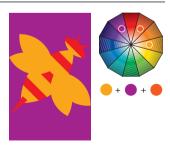
#### Analogous:

Hues positioned directly next to a foundation color on the color wheel. The neighbors could be those on either side of the original hue, or the pair of colors to its left or right.

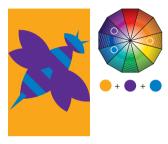


#### Analogous, variation:

Sets made of every-other spoke on the color wheel.

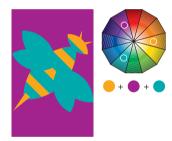


**Split Complementary:** The two colors on either side of a foundation hue's complement.



#### Triadic:

A set of three hues that are equally spaced around the color wheel.



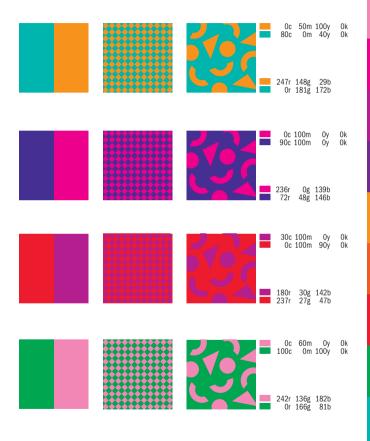
### Monochromatic:

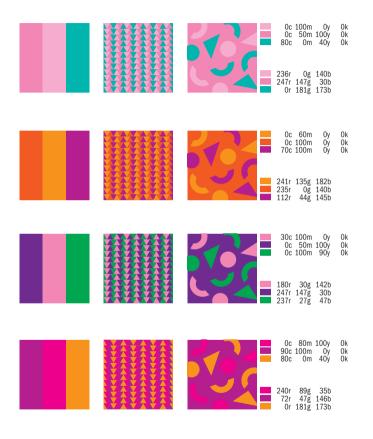
A hue that is combined with versions of itself that are of greater or lesser value or saturation.

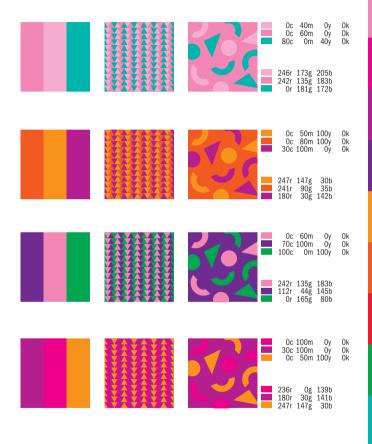


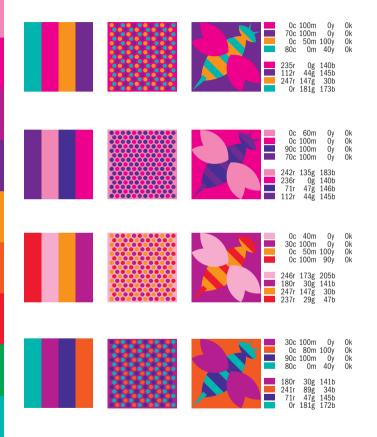


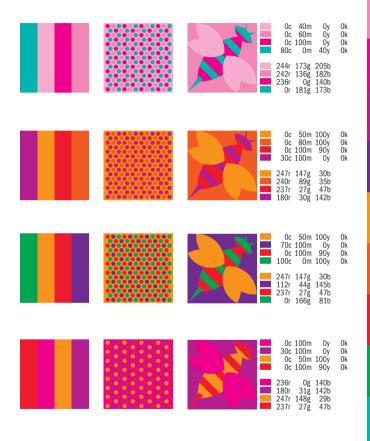






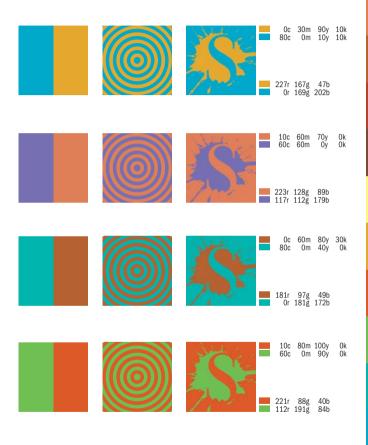


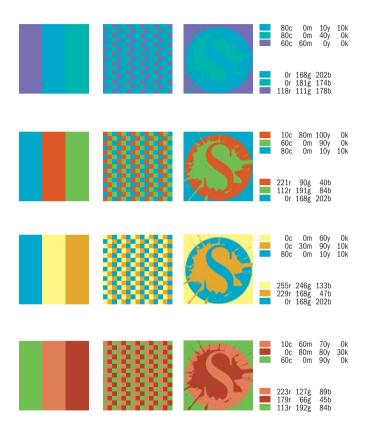


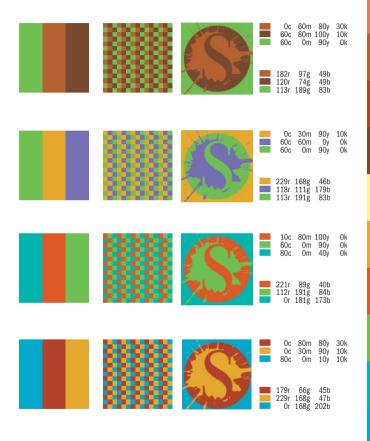


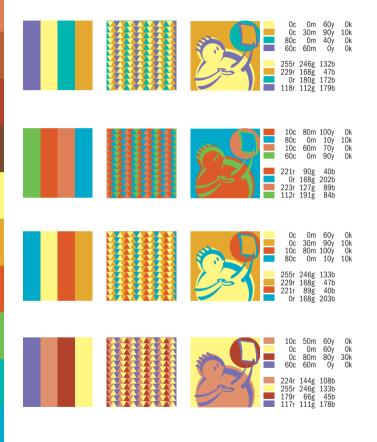


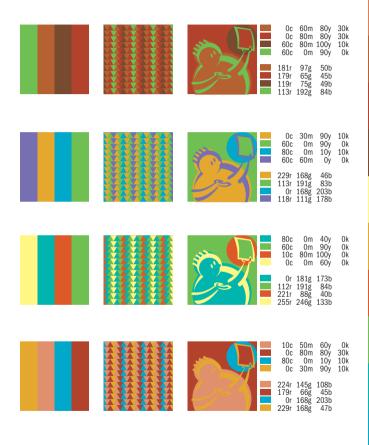












## 3: QUIET

Calm. Serene. Relaxed. Sometimes pale, sometimes dark, sometimes in between.

Hues in the blue, blue-green and blue-violet spectrum convey a visual quietude to many people. Generally speaking, people do not see these colors as signals for alarm in the way they might react to red, yellow or orange tones.

Palettes built with colors of any hue can be calmed by muting their saturation levels (see the examples on pages 186–187) or by restricting the differences in value between a palette's members. A combination of pale or pastel hues can also be used to transmit low-key emotional conveyances.

#### **Brainstorming Quiet Hues:**

Consider blues, blue-greens, blue-violets. Think about using full-strength, muted, dark or pale versions of these hues.

Muted, dark or pale renditions of any color can deliver calming conveyances.

What about complementing the flowing, soothing graphic elements of your layout with a palette of quiet hues?

To access the downloadable digital swatches for the palettes in Color Index, Revised Edition, visit www.mydesignshop.com/swatches.

As always, take a look at different background options. Should your quiet hues be set against a dark, light, bright or muted backdrop?

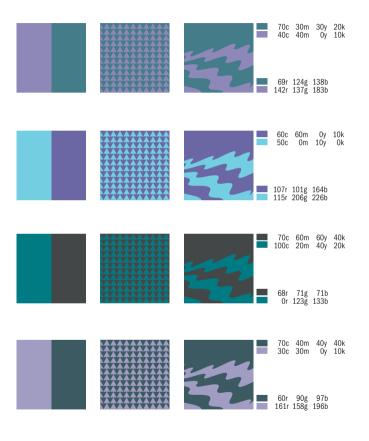
Limiting the value contrasts in a palette of quiet hues further softens their visual impact.

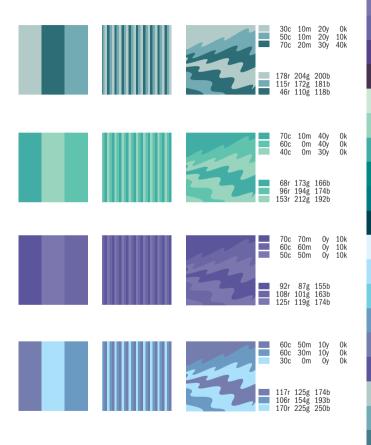
If you are constructing a layout using restrained colors, thoroughly consider your typographic and compositional options. Which choices pair best the palette you are using?

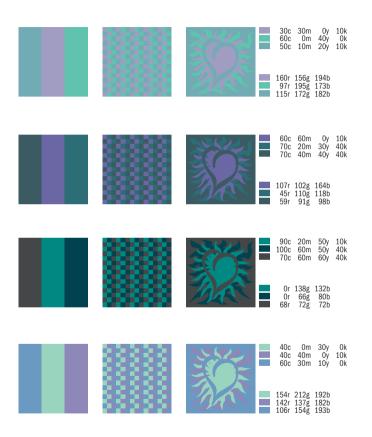


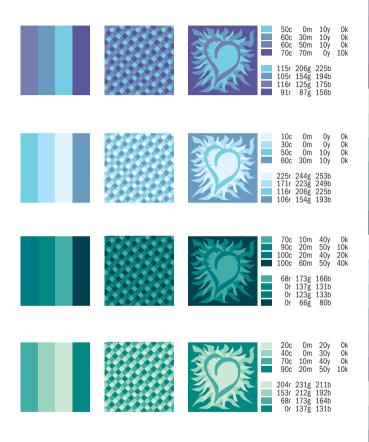


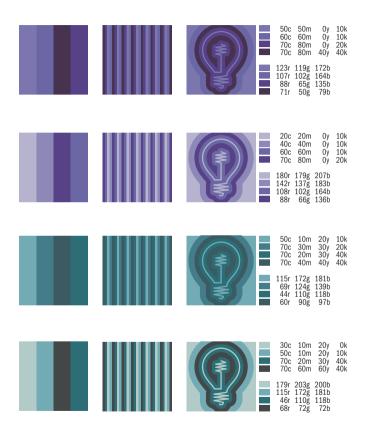


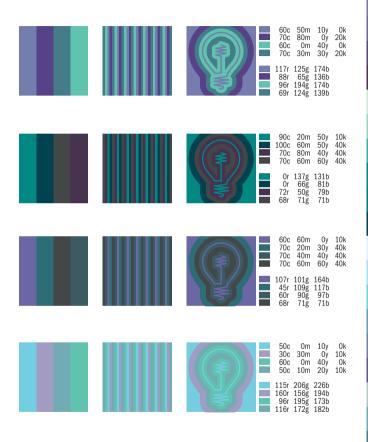






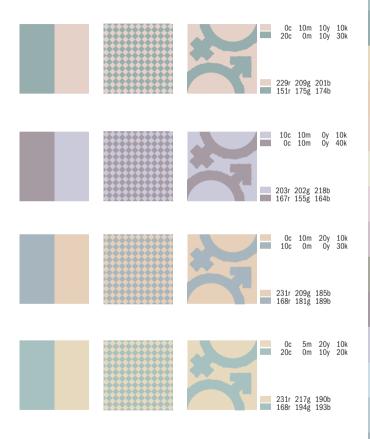


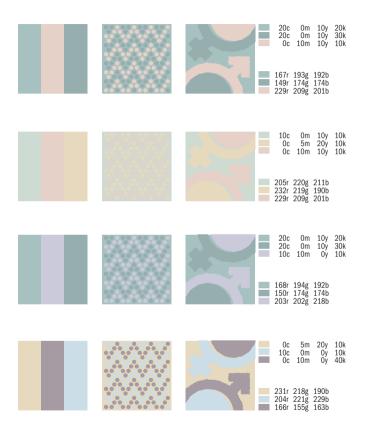


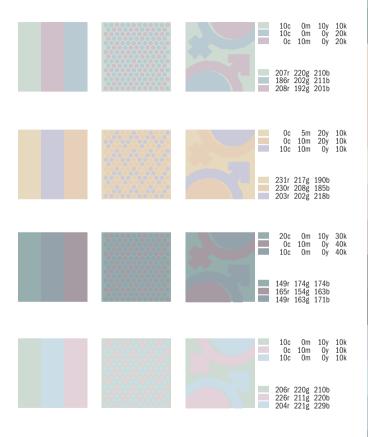


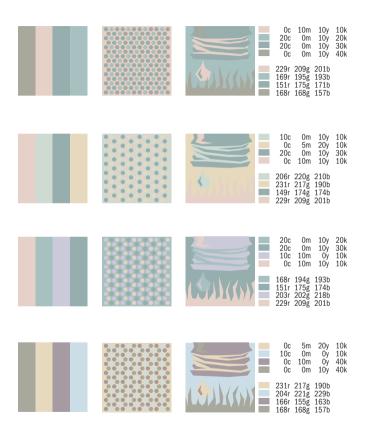


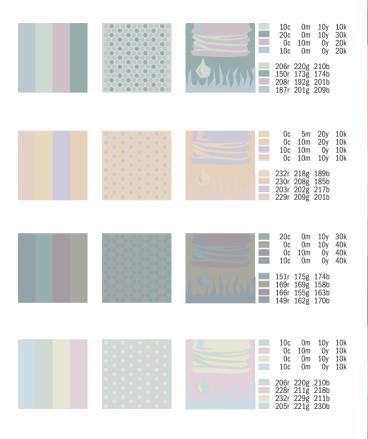












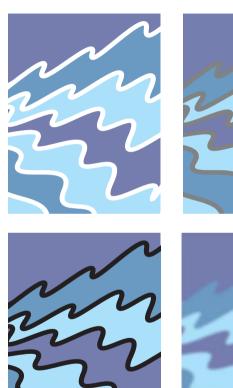


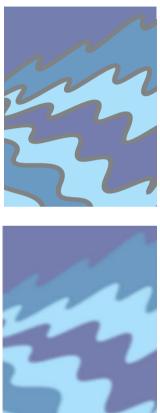
Consider using lines as dividers between the colors in an illustration or design. Lines between colors can improve the clarity of an image's content while contributing stylistically to its appearance.

The illustration at left contains four shades that have no separation between them.

The examples at right show the same design with white, black and gray lines used as dividers. A fourth illustration features a different sort of divider between hues: blurred edges.

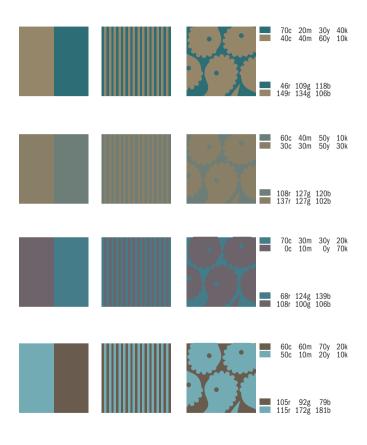
Other options that could be considered are colored lines; lines that are either thicker or thinner than those shown here; lines with textured edges; and lines that appear sketched, scratched or painted.

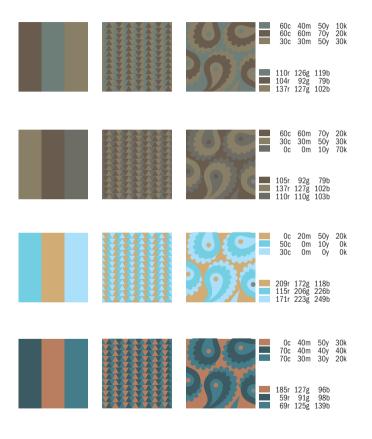


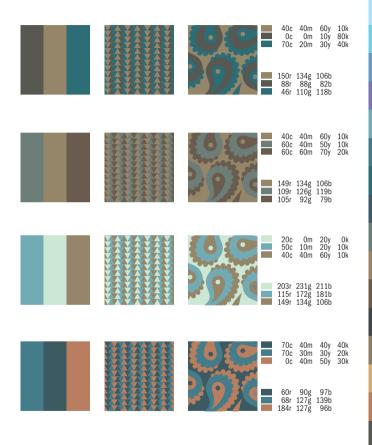


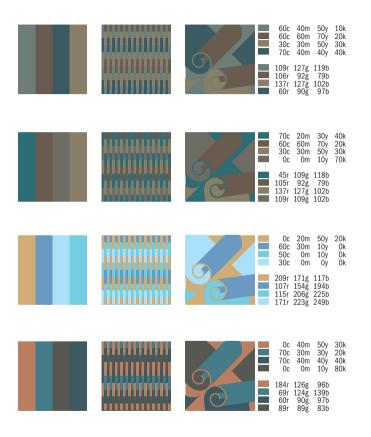


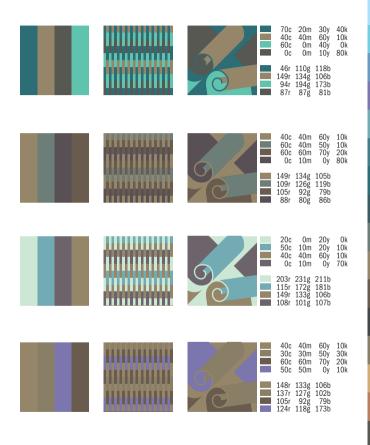




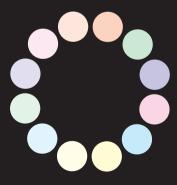


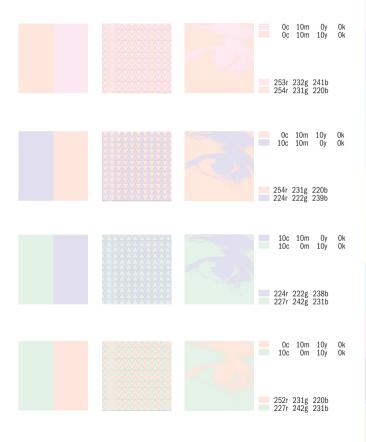


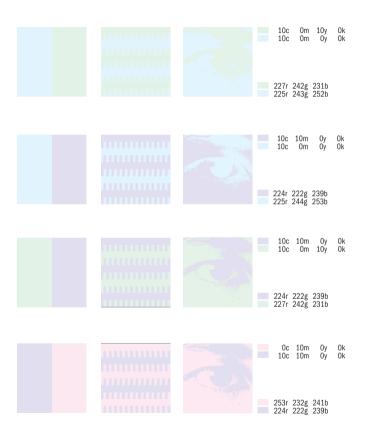


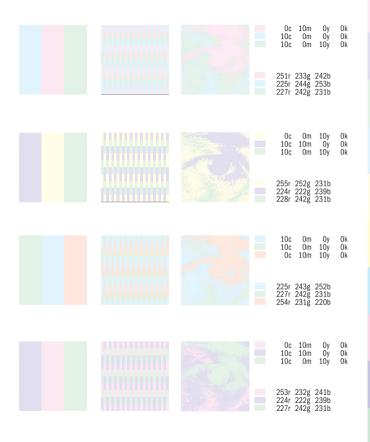


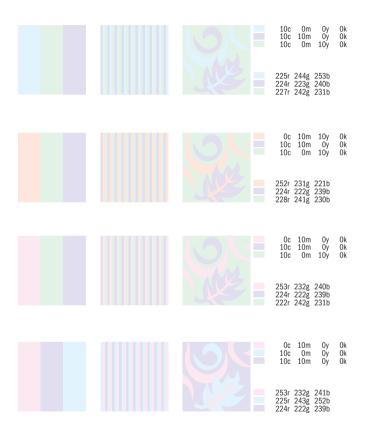




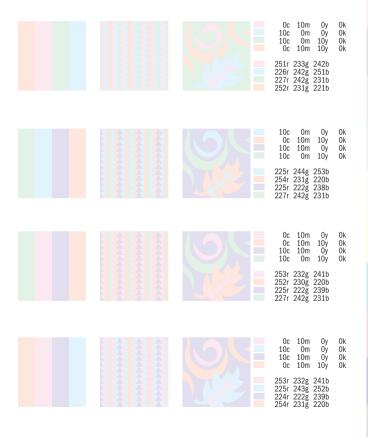


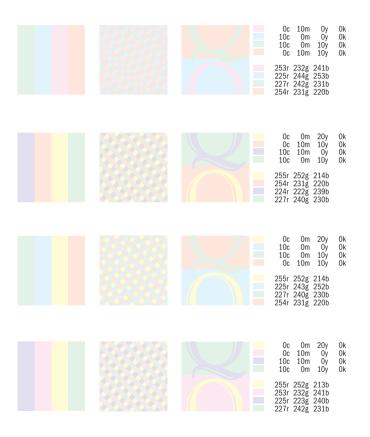


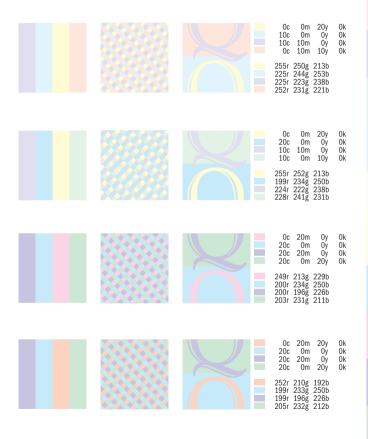




#### LIGHT TINTS







### 4: PROGRESSIVE

Every viewer has her/his idea of what a cutting-edge palette is today, what it was yesterday, and what it might be tomorrow. The hues and combinations featured in this chapter were selected because they are among those that seem to continually resurface in the media.

How do you know what colors are at the forefront of style and which ones aren't? Here's one way: Observe, study and expose yourself to contemporary culture until you feel like you have a good sense for what's happening in visual media today (trend-setting magazines and clothing stores are a good place to start).

# Brainstorming Progressive Combinations:

Maintain a fresh sense of color trends by keeping tabs on progressive magazines, websites, television shows, movies, clothes and music packaging.

What kinds of colors are being used by cutting-edge retail shops these days?

How progressively-minded is the audience you are designing for? Are their style-based color and layout assumptions the same as yours? Get in sync with your audience by spending time viewing the media they view.

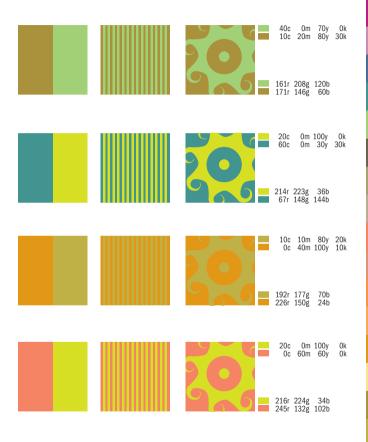
What is your forward-thinking client's competition doing? What colors can you choose to set your client apart from the crowd?

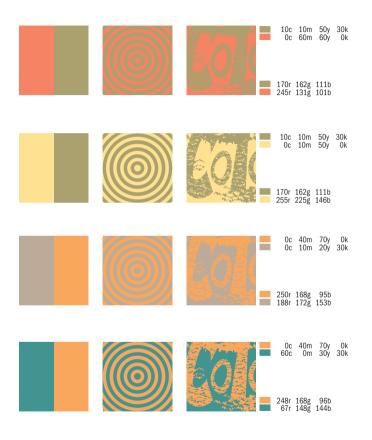
Stretch your ideas to the breaking point. Break into new territory.

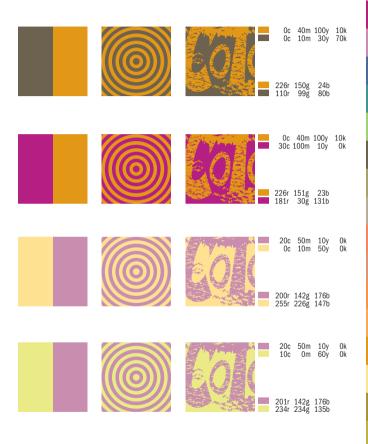
To access the downloadable digital swatches for the palettes in Color Index, Revised Edition, visit www.mydesignshop.com/swatches.

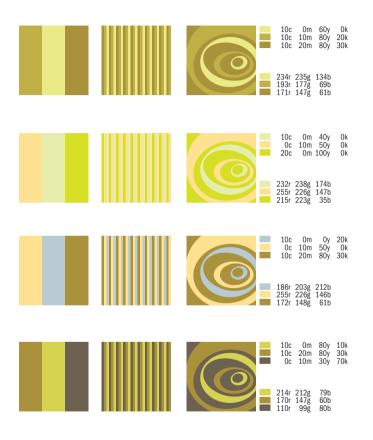


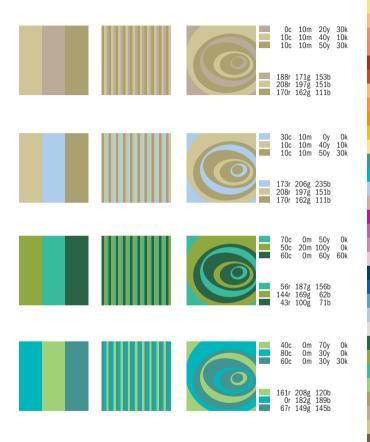


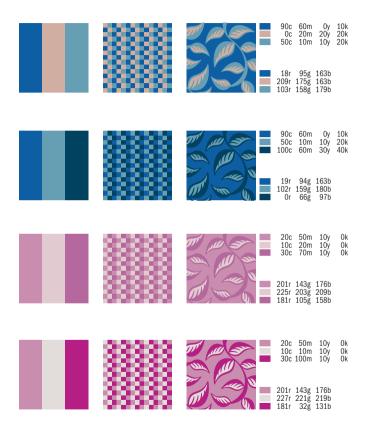


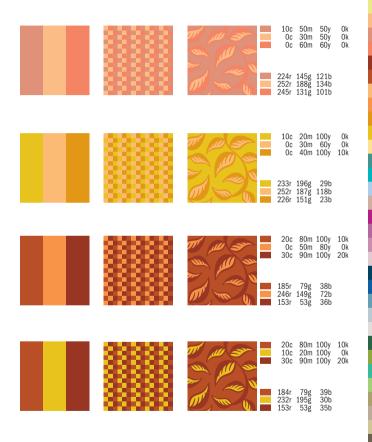






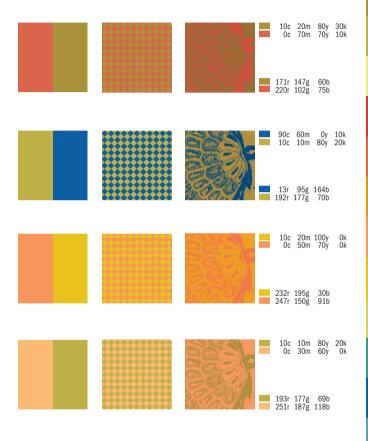


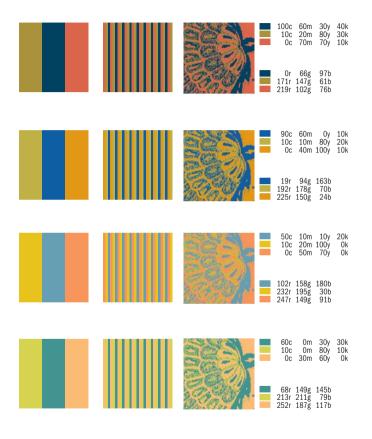


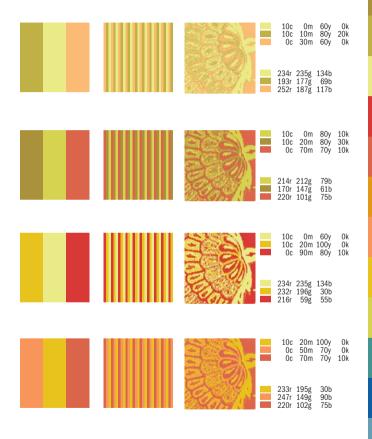


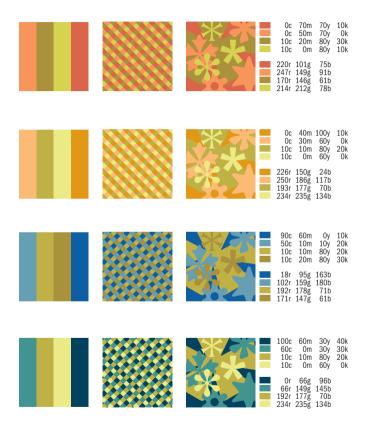


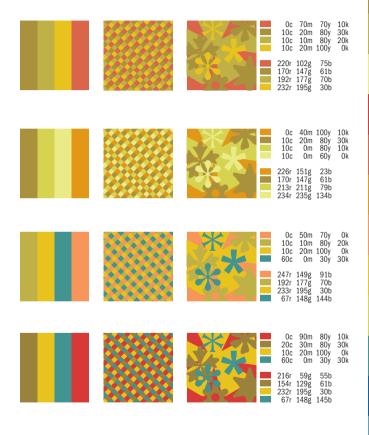














Color speaks through our eyes just as words do through our ears.

So what happens when we "speak" visual nonsense?

Could an unexpected application of color add strength to your message? Could an unusual hue draw attention to an image while enforcing an intriguing idea?

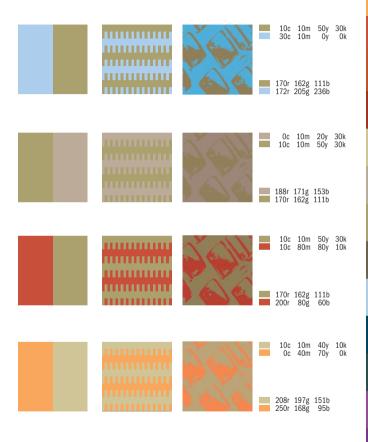
Consider using imagealtering software such as Photoshop to add a colorbending twist to your photos and illustrations.

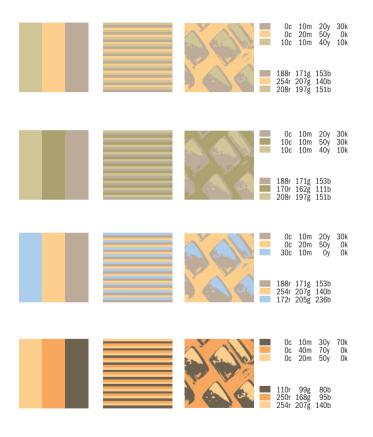
A hint: when adding color to an image in Photoshop, apply the color on a layer of its own. Then, set the layer's pull-down menu to "multiply," "soft light, or "overlay." These settings tend to allow the colors and textures of the underlying image to blend realistically with the colors being added.

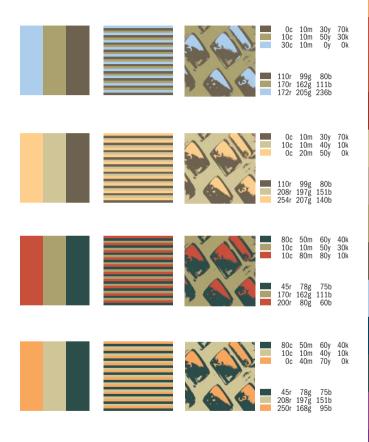


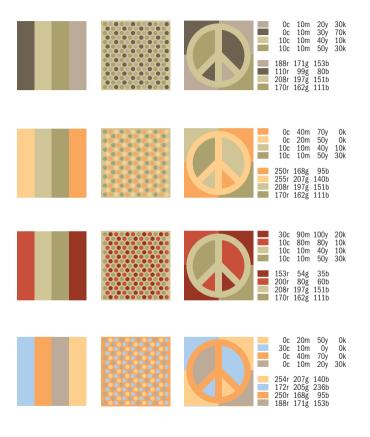


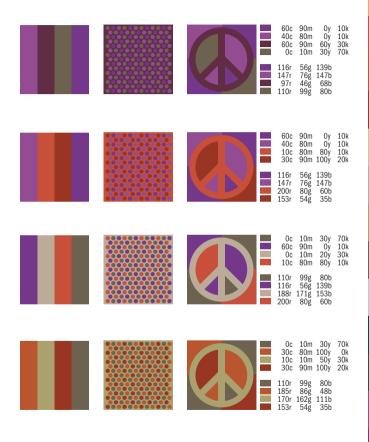


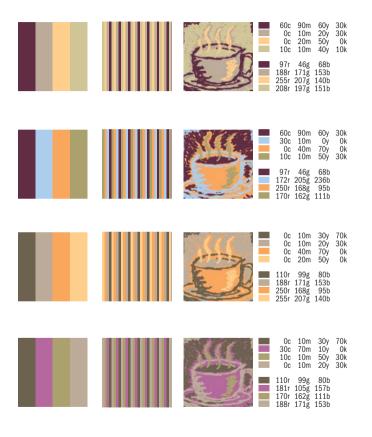


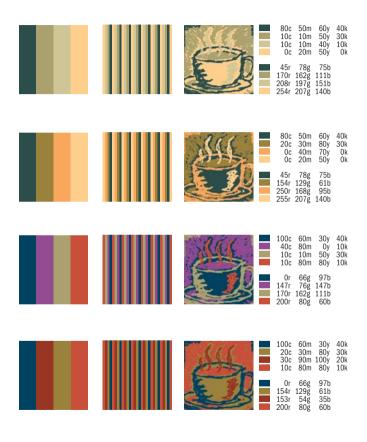






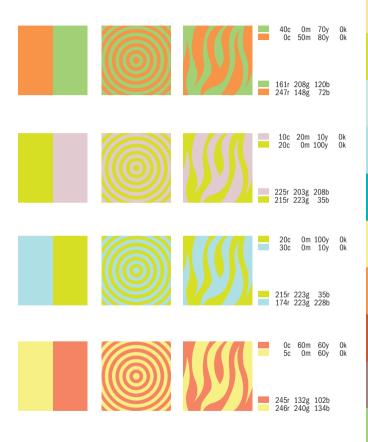


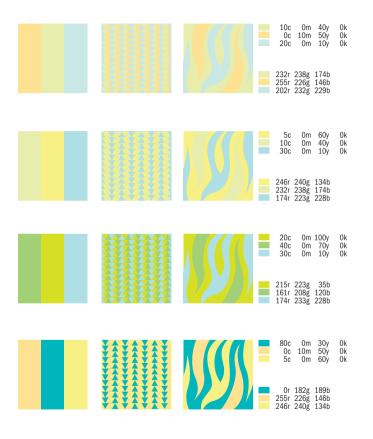


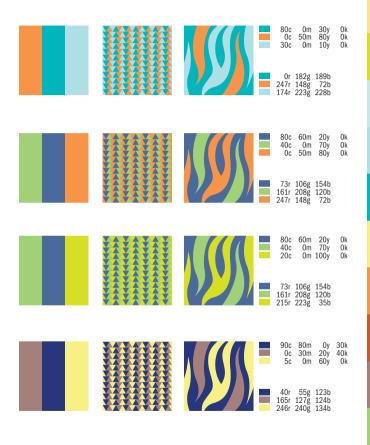


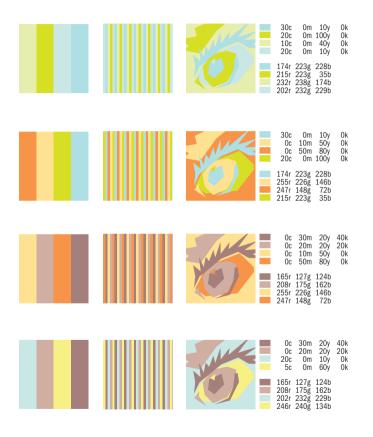


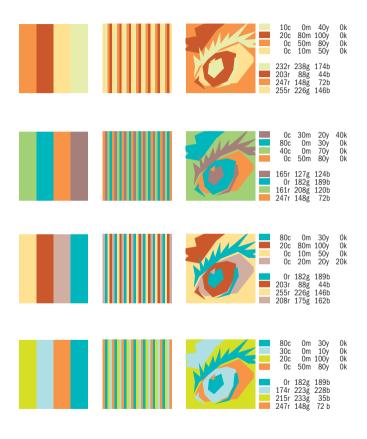






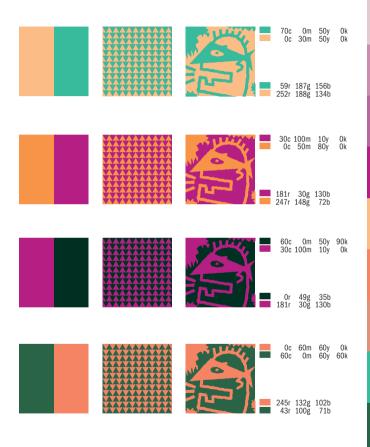


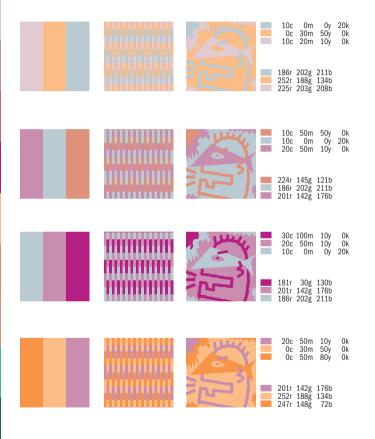


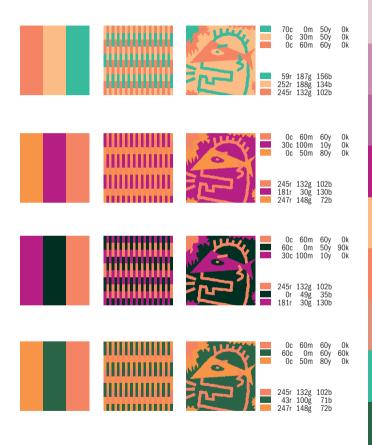




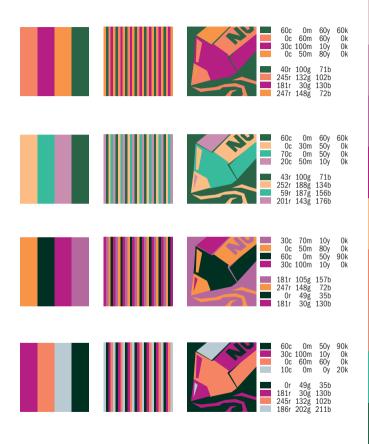












## 5: RICH

Hues of royalty, tradition, history and wealth are the focus of this chapter: colors and palettes that have appeared and re-appeared across time in places of affluence and honor (as well as in places that aspire to project the essence of these attributes).

Violets and deep blues are often combined with full shades of green, gold, and burgundy to convey a sense of richness. Strong grays and naturals are also seen in sumptuous traditional tapestries, decorations and works of art—often in the role of supporting full-hued primary and secondary colors.

You will notice that value contrasts are limited in many of this chapter's palettes. Restraining the contrast in palettes of rich colors is an effective way of keeping a lid on excitement and pep.

# Brainstorming Rich Color Schemes:

Investigate images of royalty, wealth and affluent society. Take a look at advertisements for wine, luxury cars, fine home furnishings and formal wear.

Look through reference books and websites and note the colors used in traditional tapestries, furnishings and clothing.

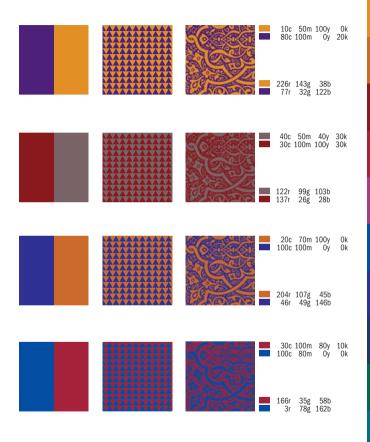
To access the downloadable digital swatches for the palettes in Color Index, Revised Edition, visit www.mydesignshop.com/swatches.

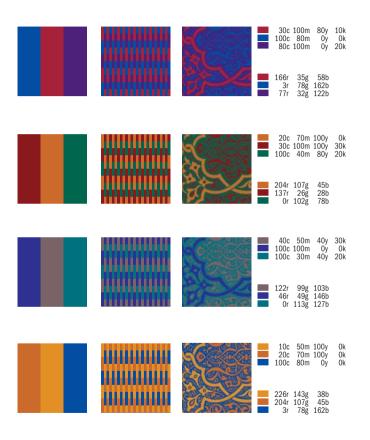
Connotations of affluence are sometimes delivered through complex palettes of deep-hued colors and neutral tones; sometimes they are conveyed through bright and minimalist applications of color (especially when it comes to modern expressions of wealth).

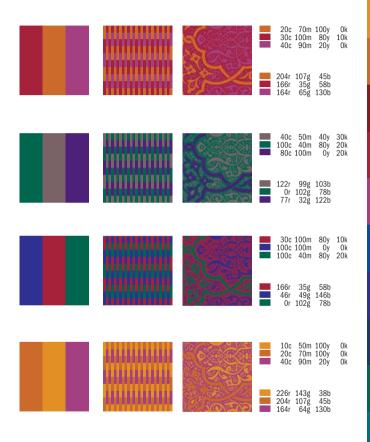
What, besides color, can enforce your layout's message of richness? Ornamentation? Elegant typography? A luxuriously patterned backdrop?

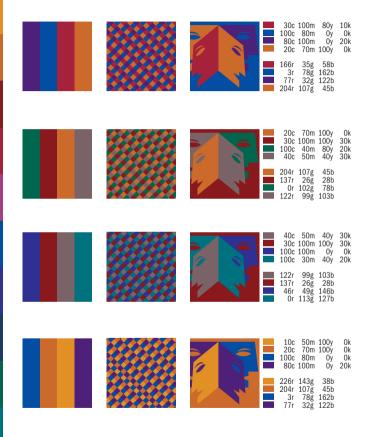


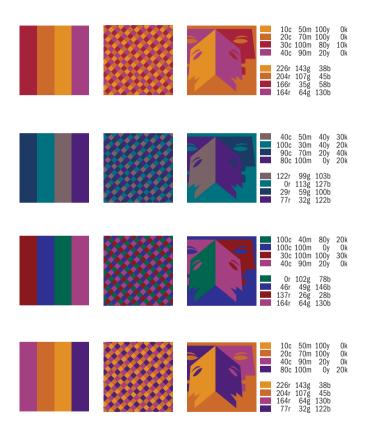






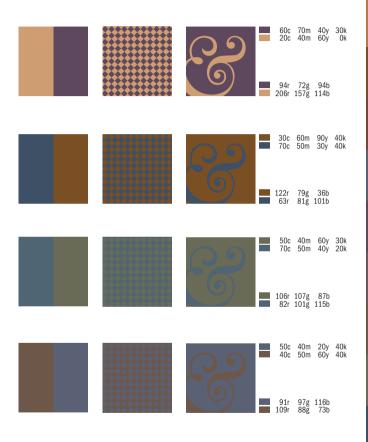


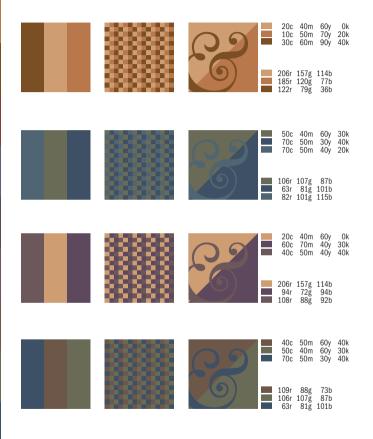


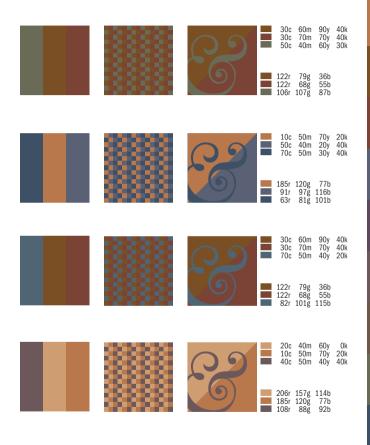


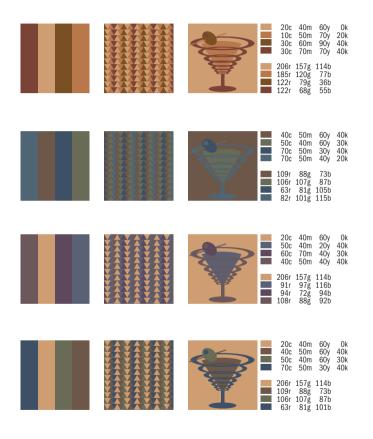


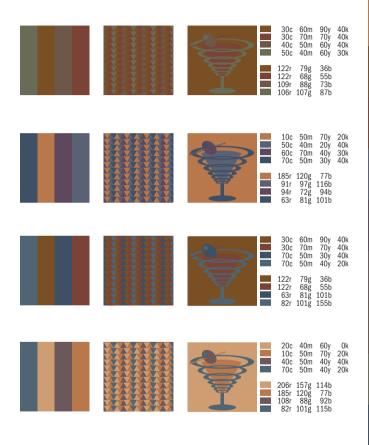












## FOCUS ON ECHOING

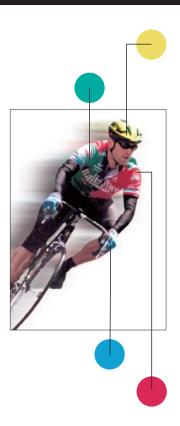
Designing a layout around an existing photo or illustration?

Here are some suggestions for finding a palette that will harmoniously complement an image.

Start by locating potentially useful hues within your photo or illustration. Use a tool like Photoshop's eyedropper to sample the colors. Then, using the pencil tool, apply a dab of each of these colors to a fresh document. This new document can be used as a palette from which the colors can be conveniently sampled later on.

Experiment with different ways of applying these colors to your design (opposite page).

Which colors best emphasize the overall message? Should the colors be darkened, lightened, simplified or otherwise adjusted before applying them?





Here, the rider's helmet and jersey provide hues for the typography that has been added to the original image. The colors in the type make visual sense since they also appear in the photo.



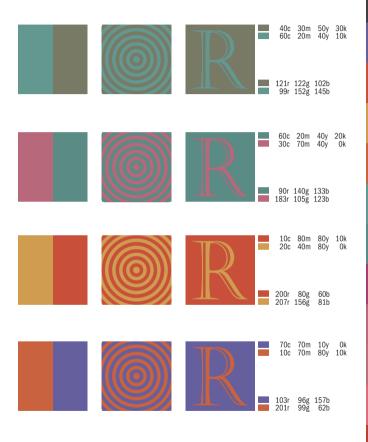
Sometimes a color that appears in tiny portions of an image can be effectively brought to prominence in other areas of the design. In the sample above, a blue that only appears in the rider's gloves is applied generously to the layout's backdrop. The red of the jersey and the helmet's yellow are also echoed in the design.

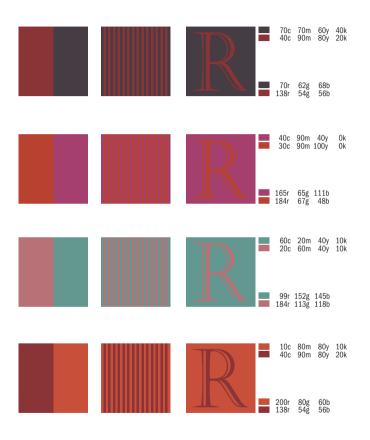


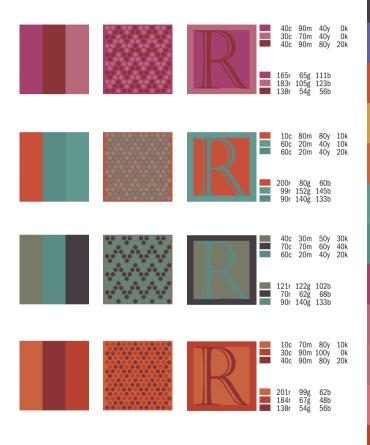
In this version, a yellow borrowed from the rider's helmet provides a powerful backdrop for the entire layout. Notice how the blue type is used to keep the helmet's edge from disappearing into the background.

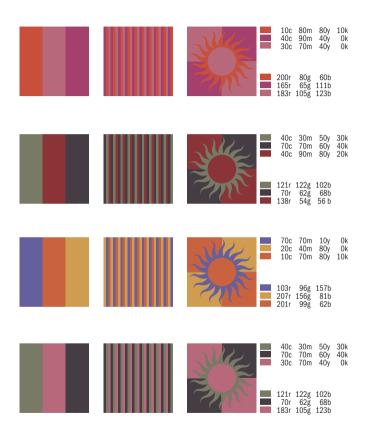


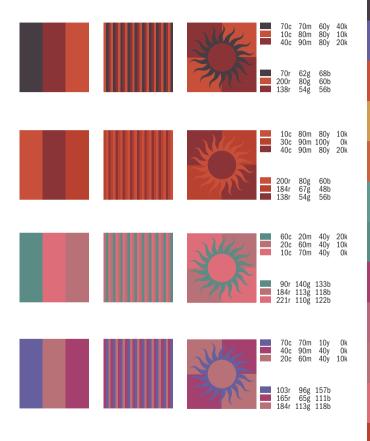


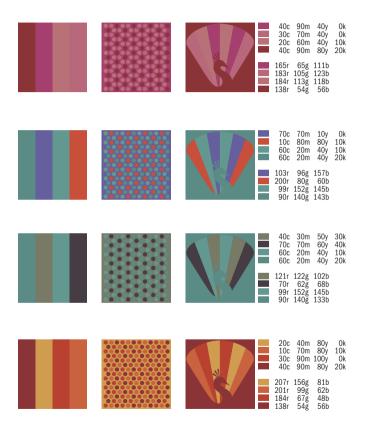


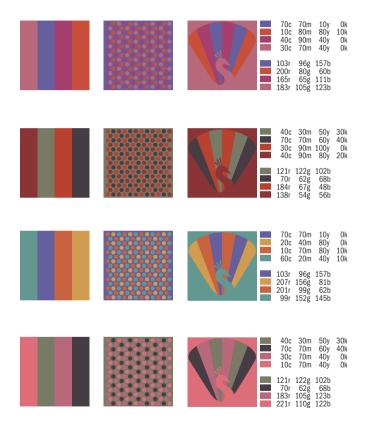








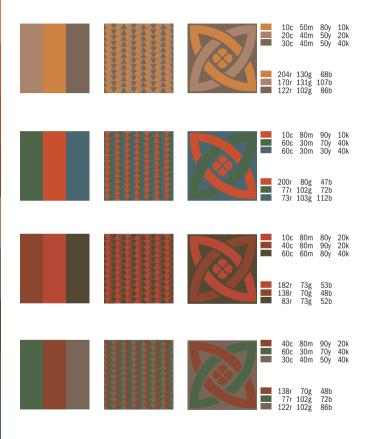


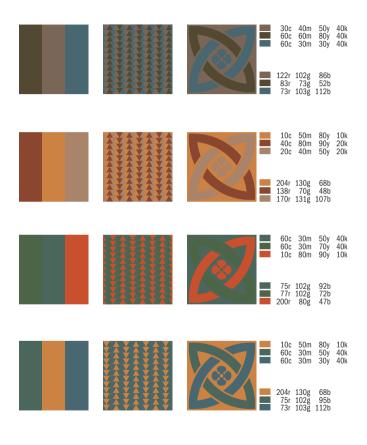


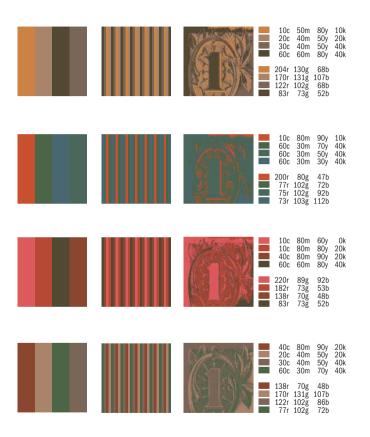


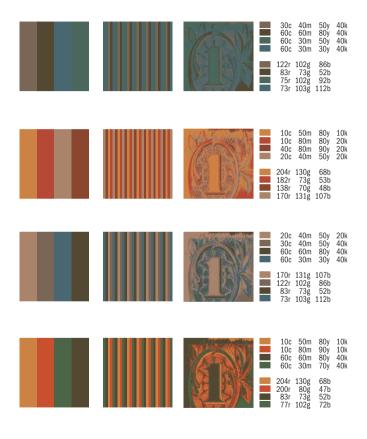












## 6: MUTED

Hues of royalty, tradition, history and wealth are the focus of this chapter: colors and palettes that have appeared and re-appeared across time in places of affluence and honor—as well as in places that aspire to project the essence of these attributes.

Violets and deep blues are often combined with full shades of green, gold, and burgundy to convey a sense of richness. Strong grays and naturals are also seen in sumptuous traditional tapestries, decorations and works of art—often in the role of supporting full-hued primary and secondary colors.

You will notice that value contrasts are limited in many of this chapter's palettes. Restraining the contrast in palettes of rich colors is an effective way of keeping a lid on conveyances of excitement and pep.

## **Brainstorming Muted Hues:**

Would a palette of restrained colors suit your project? If so, how much should you mute your hues? A lot? A little? Somewhere in between?

Keep mind, muting is relative. A group of moderately muted hues might not appear muted at all unless they appear side-by-side with an unmuted hue.

Consider combining a set of muted colors. Also think about creating a palette that combines muted and intense hues. (See chapter 9, Accent, pages 274–299).

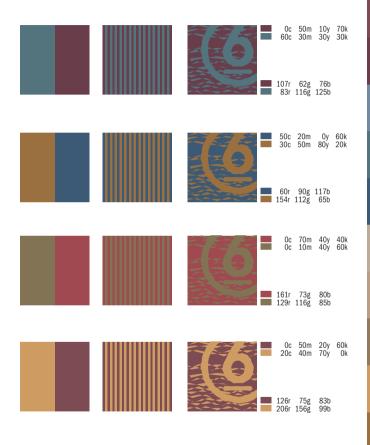
How about using a muted palette to color a backdrop that contrasts nicely with a bright-hued photograph or illustration?

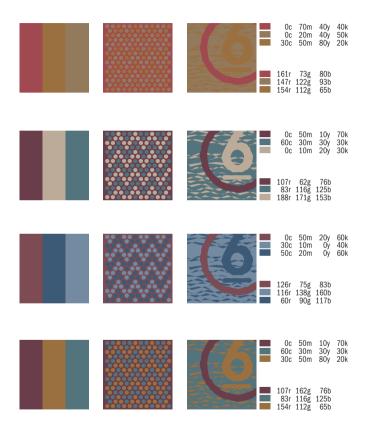
Hues can be muted toward cool gray (a gray that tends toward blue, blue-green or violet) or warm gray (a gray that contains hints of yellow, orange, red or brown).

To access the downloadable digital swatches for the palettes in Color Index, Revised Edition, visit www.mydesignshop.com/swatches.

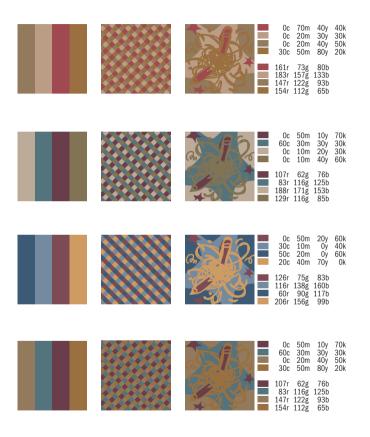


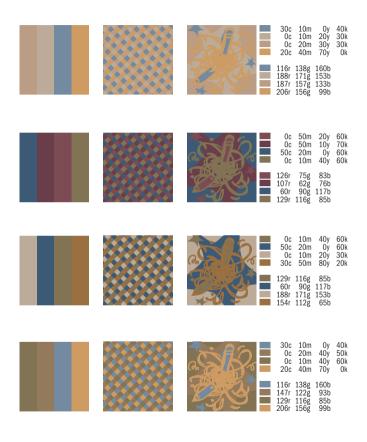






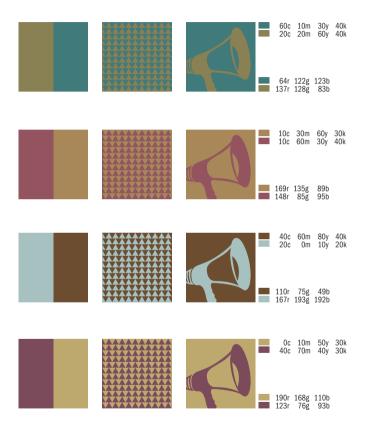


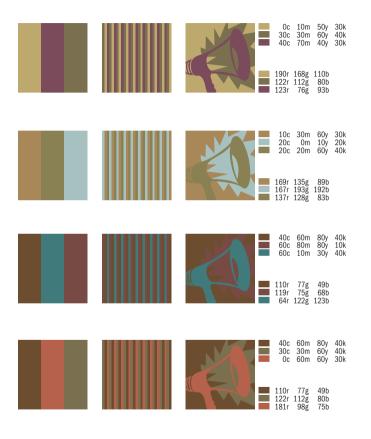


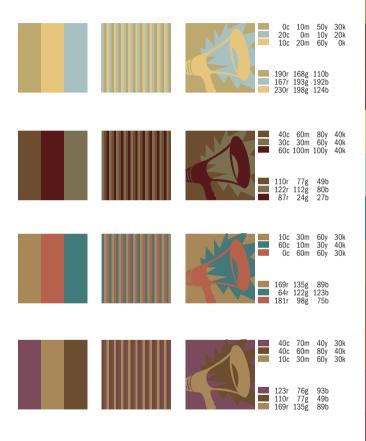


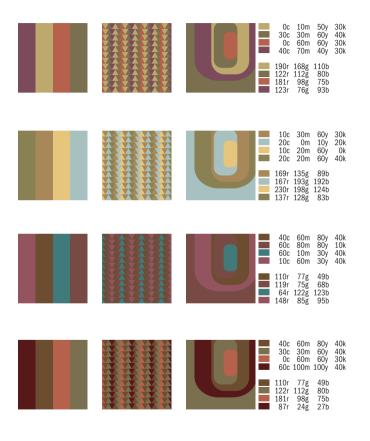


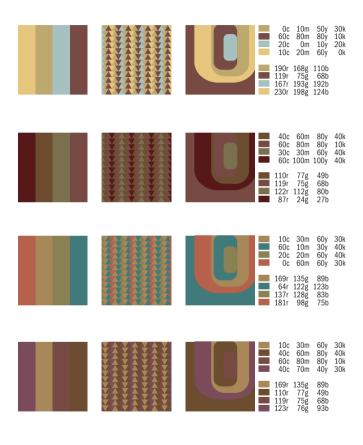




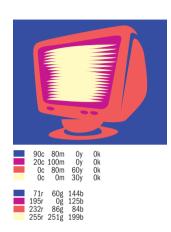








# FOCUS ON MUTING



Muting the intensity of a palette's colors can add a sense of calmness or sophistication to a design or image.

Contemporary illustrations and layouts often feature palettes that have been muted to a significant degree.

The illustration at left has been colored using a bright palette of relatively intense hues.

The colors used in the samples on the opposite page are muted versions of the original hues.

When should you mute a palette's hues, and how much should you mute them? It all depends on the effect you're after and the audience you are trying to reach with your photo, illustration or design. Refine your ability to effectively answer aesthetic questions such as these by keeping an eye on current trends in advertising and design.



- 70c 70m 30y 0k 20c 60m 10y 0k 10c 60m 70y 0k 10c 0m 30y 0k
- 109r 86g 127b 206r 127g 162b 220r 131g 83b 235r 242g 198b



- 60c 70m 40y 10k 10c 40m 20y 0k 10c 60m 70y 10k 10c 10m 30y 0k
- 117r 83g 107b 229r 172g 173b 203r 120g 76b 234r 225g 189b



- 40c 50m 40y 20k 10c 30m 20y 10k 20c 50m 60y 10k 10c 10m 30y 10k
- 140r 112g 112b 213r 177g 170b 189r 134g 96b 216r 208g 174b

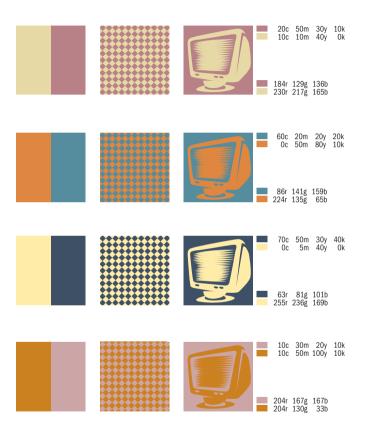


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- 223r 196g 181b 174r 137g 106b 194r 183g 148b



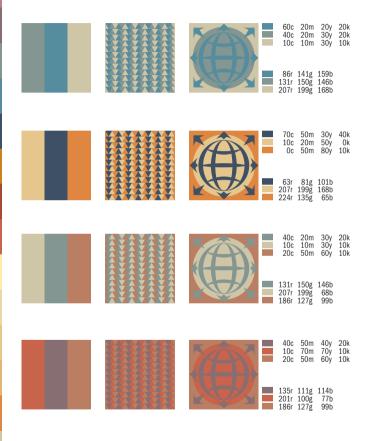


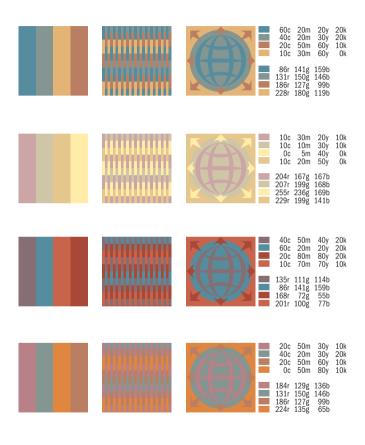


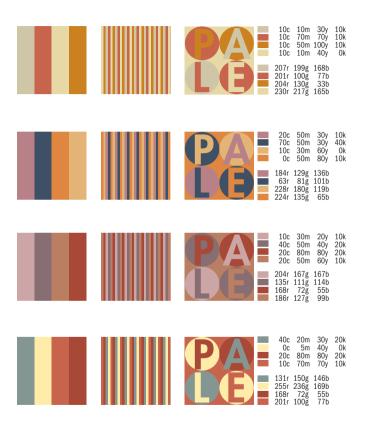


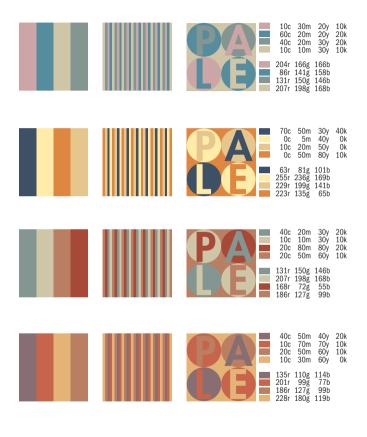


### MUTED



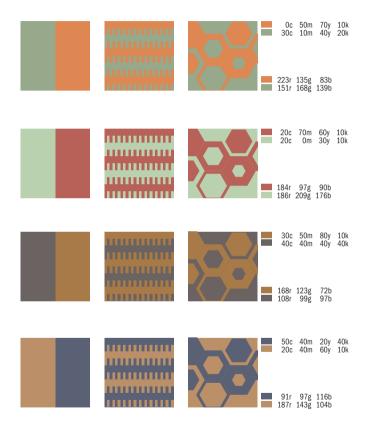


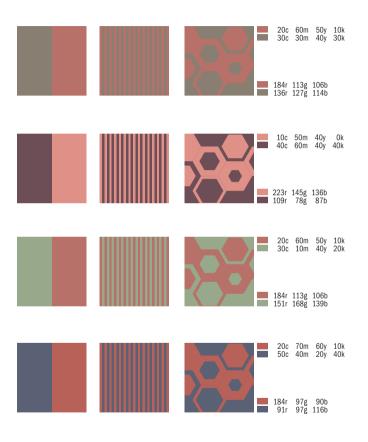


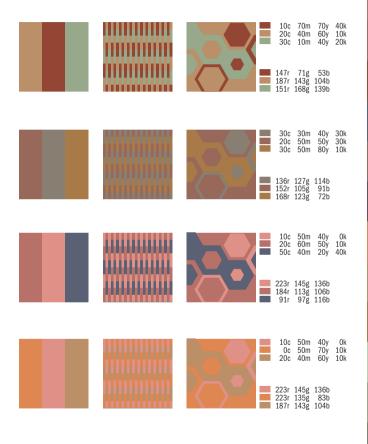


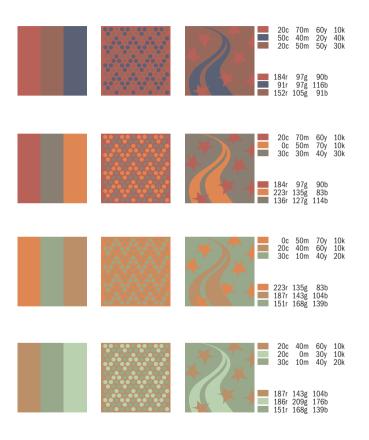


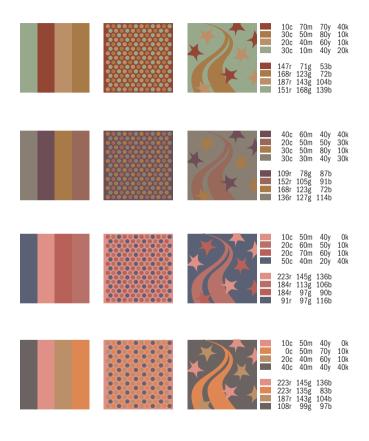




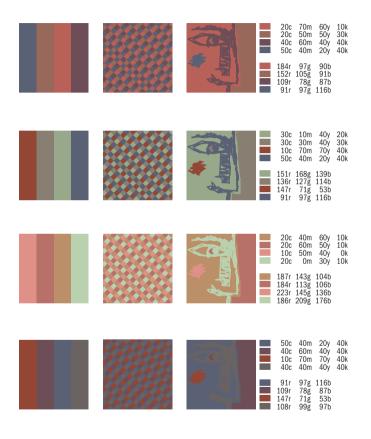


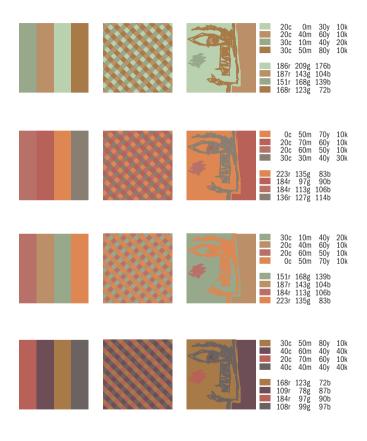






### MUTED





# 7: CULTURE/ERA

For the purposes of this chapter, the word "culture" is used to refer to a worldly, neo-indigenous look. Many of the color schemes ahead have been built using colors and palettes borrowed from a variety of traditional, ethnically specific sources.

The "era" portion of this chapter draws its inspiration from historic Art Nouveau and Art Deco periods, as well as from the paintings of 16th and 20th century masters.

When aiming for palettes that convey distinct cultural references, take a look at online and printed material to get a feel for what colors best deliver the look you're after. Based on your findings, you may find a palette in this chapter that suits your needs; you may be able to alter one of the palettes to accurately achieve the look you're after; and you may need to start from scratch to build a color combination that fully accomplishes your goal.

# Brainstorming Hues of Culture and Era:

Books, galleries, museums and online resources were consulted as inspiration for the palettes in this chapter.

These same resources can be used to expand your own understanding of—and ability to apply—culturally relevant and era-based palettes.

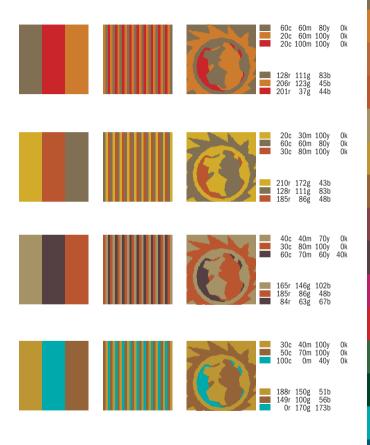
Investigate the textiles, flags and arts (both historic and modern) of a country or cultural group to get a good idea of the colors favored by its people.

Art history books, museums and websites can clue you in to the kinds of palettes used within artistic movements such as Byzantine, Renaissance (early through late), Impressionist, Modernist, Art Nouveau, Art Deco and abstract

To access the downloadable digital swatches for the palettes in Color Index, Revised Edition, visit www.mydesignshop.com/swatches.





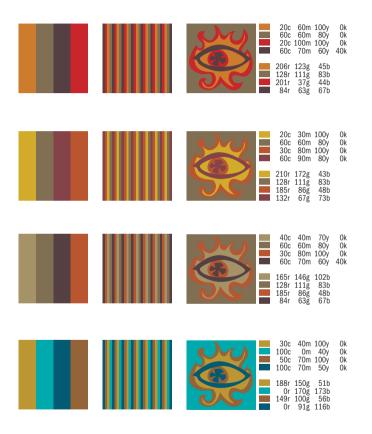


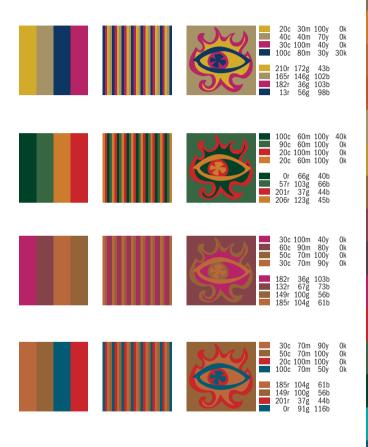
# CULTURE/ERA





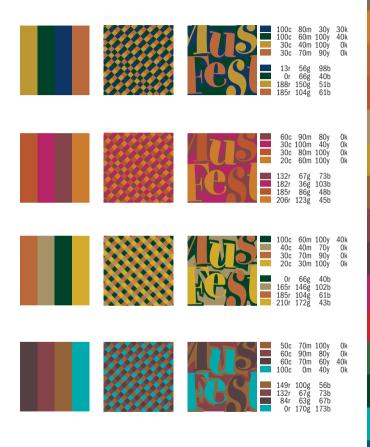
# CULTURE/ERA





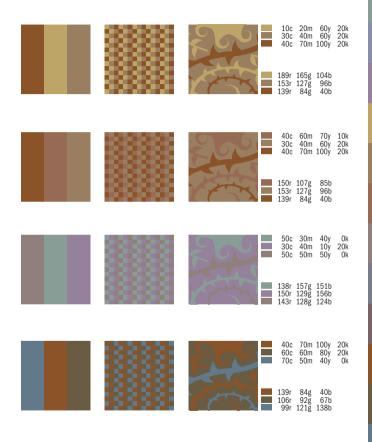
# CULTURE/ERA

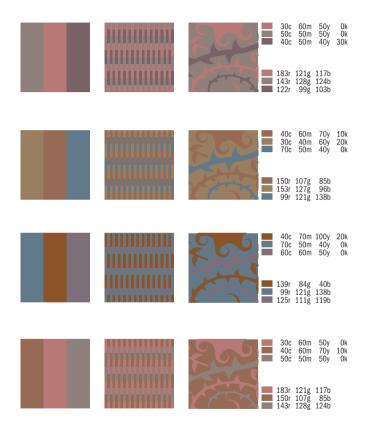


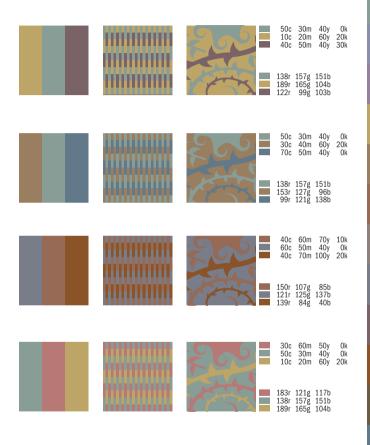


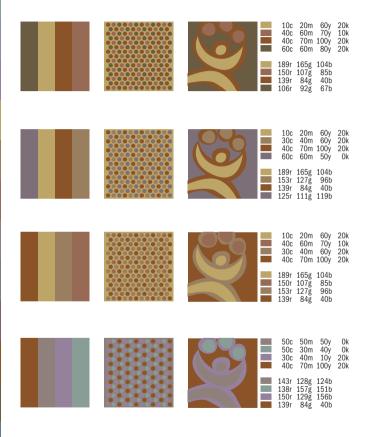


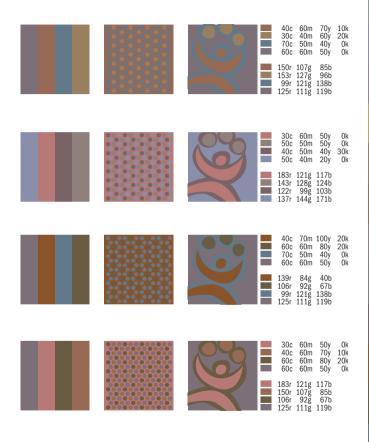


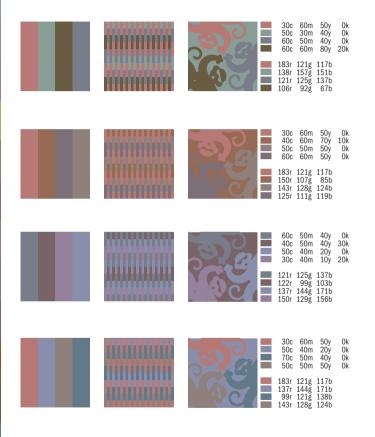




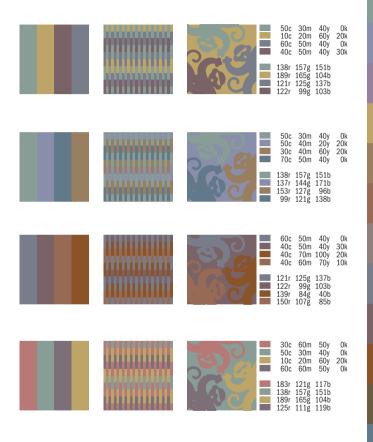


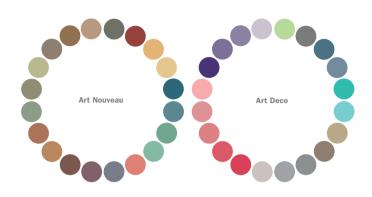


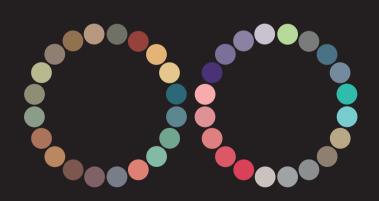




#### MUTED COMBINATIONS

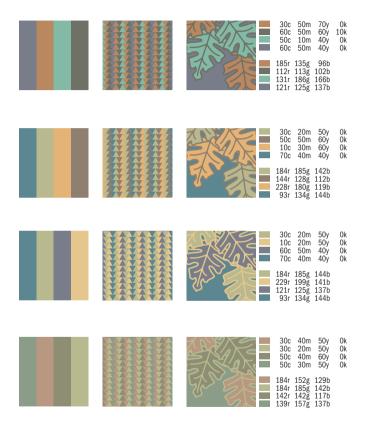


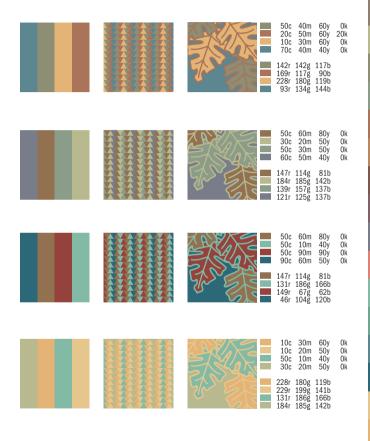


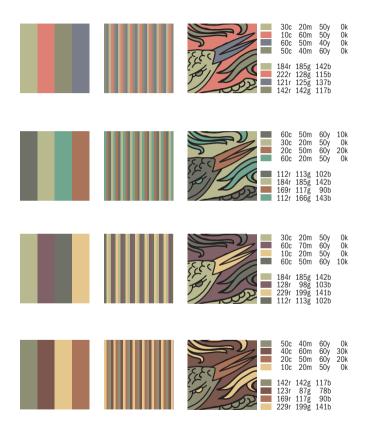


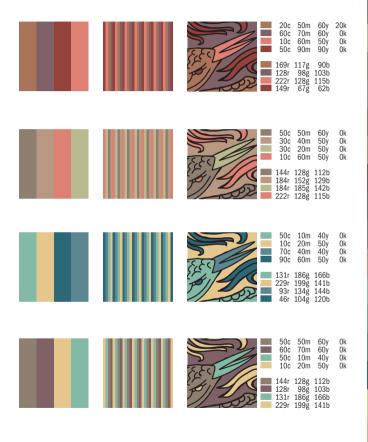
Art Nouveau is a style of decorative art that peaked during the late 1800s through the early 1900s. The visual aesthetics of this movement are based on an organic, back-to-nature sensibility. Its muted palette is taken from the natural world and is useful today to designers looking for color schemes that reflect not only nature, but also lend connotations of the past.

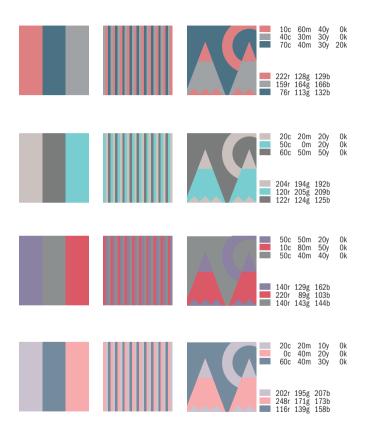
The Art Deco movement incorporated themes from many of the progressive art styles of the early 20th century. It tended away from nature and toward a more industrialized, futuristic aesthetic. In print, Art Deco is characterized by hues that imply an urban and man-made existence: vibrant teals, warm and cool grays, saturated pinks and violets.

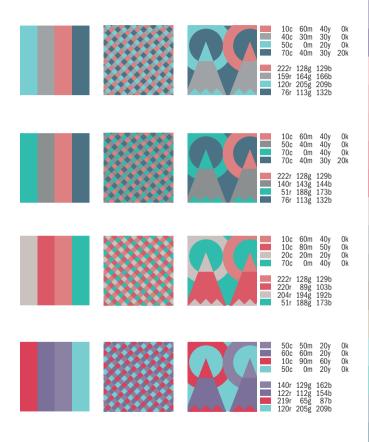


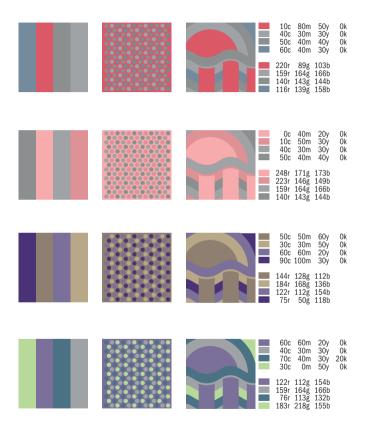


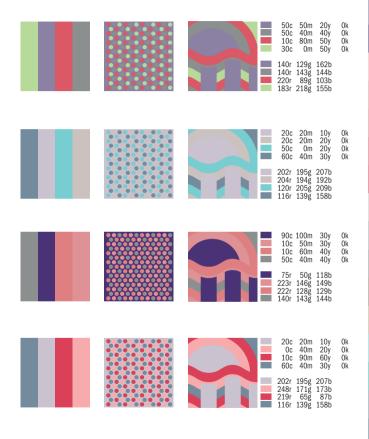










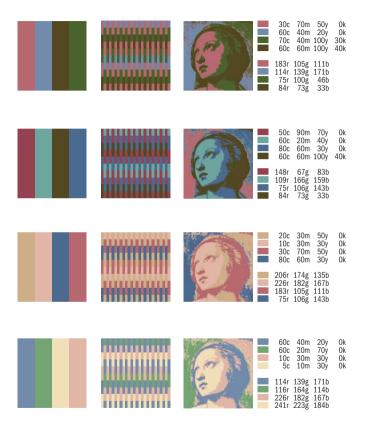


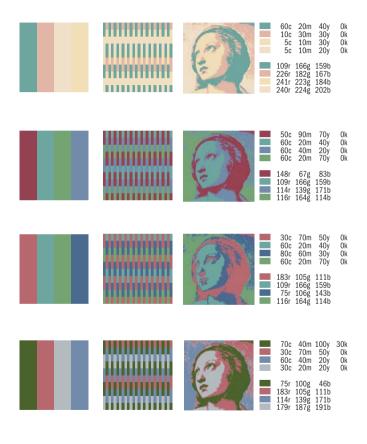


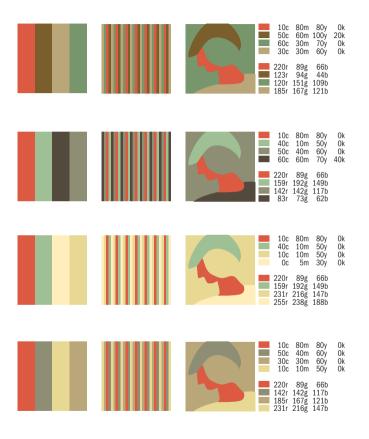


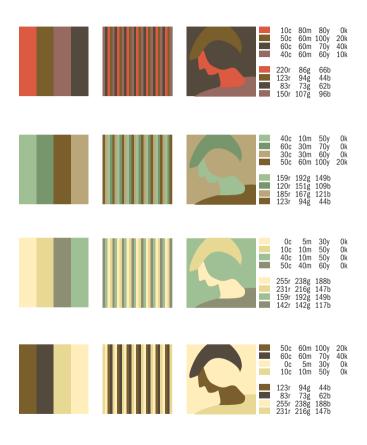
The fine arts, both historic and current, have much to offer the modern day commercial art professional. Great artists, past and present, have helped define the way we see and interpret the world around us through use of form, composition, content and color. Their innovation and discoveries are extremely relevant to anyone involved in the creation of visual material.

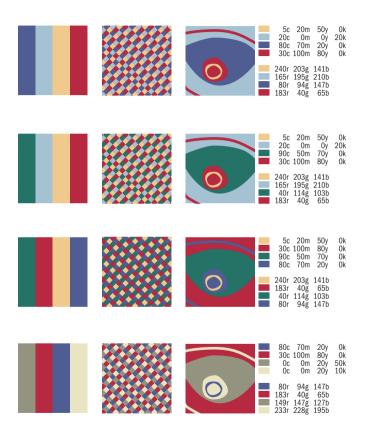
Four influential artists from two significant fine art eras have been chosen to lend color ideas to this chapter: Raphael (Raffaello Sanzio) and Pieter Bruegel the Elder (both active during the 16th century); and Joan Miró and Robert Motherwell (20th century painters).

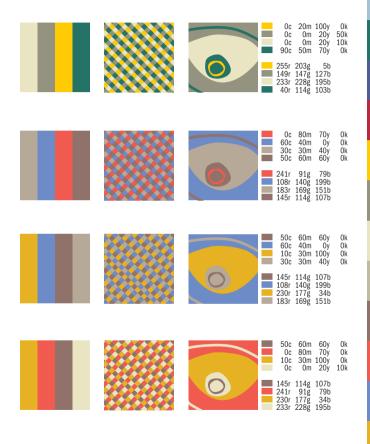


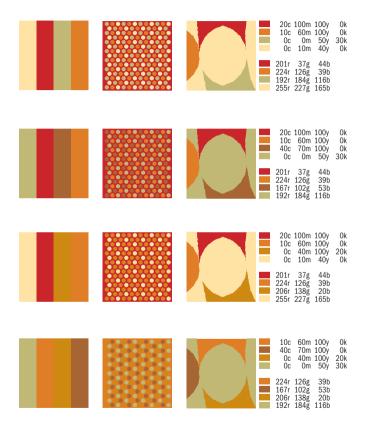


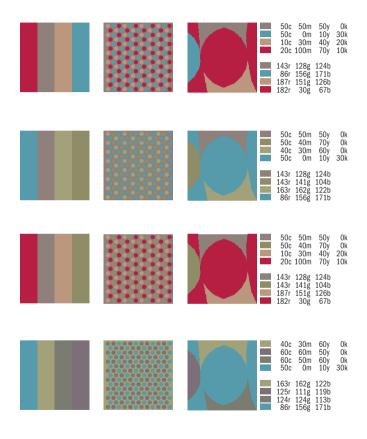












# 8: NATURAL

Natural hues borrowed from the planet on which we live: browns, grays and muted reds inspired by the colors of soil and stone; greens and yellows borrowed from the hues of foliage; and blues and oranges adopted from the spectrum of sky, sun and sea.

Colors such as these are often used by designers aiming to catch the attention of viewers interested in a grass-roots, no-nonsense, "earthy" presentation.

Natural tones, just like any defined group of hues, come in—and go out—of fashion. Sometimes certain browns prevail. At other times it's warm grays, cool grays, beiges or tans that seem to dominate the latest examples of fashion, home accessories and advertisements. What's going on today? Take a look through current media to get a sense for natural hues that are right on trend.

## **Brainstorming Natural Colors:**

Could your project's message be delivered through an earthy palette of browns, a celestial selection of blues or an organic arrangement of greens?

What about building combinations of hues based on the colors of soil, rocks, sky, fire, water, plants, animals or skin?

Consider the effects the seasons have on natural hues.

How about using only natural colors in your palette? Is there a way of incorporatiing some "non-organic" colors for the sake of contrast?

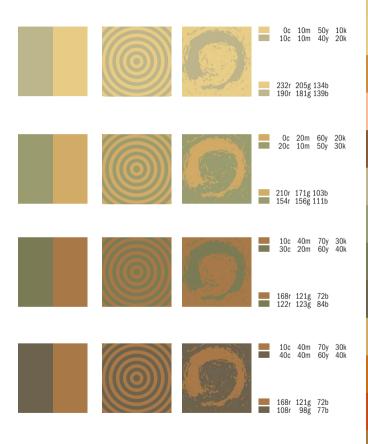
Natural colors can be bright, muted, lively, subdued, warm, or cool.

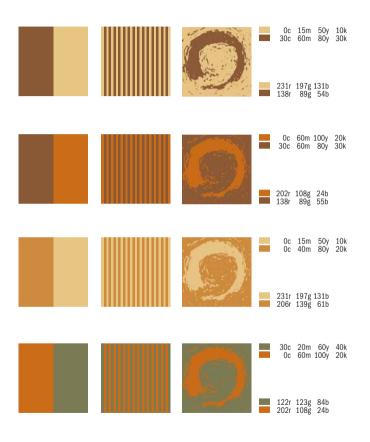
Look at landscape paintings and photographs for ideas. Look out the window. Would a walk or a hike provide some inspiration for your project?

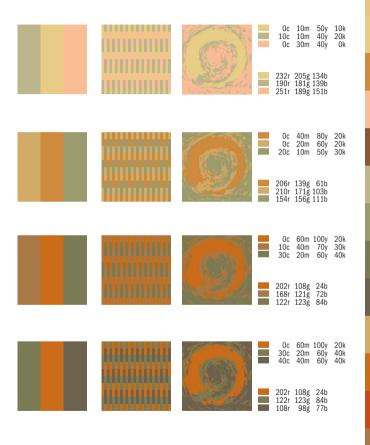
To access the downloadable digital swatches for the palettes in Color Index, Revised Edition, visit www.mydesignshop.com/swatches.



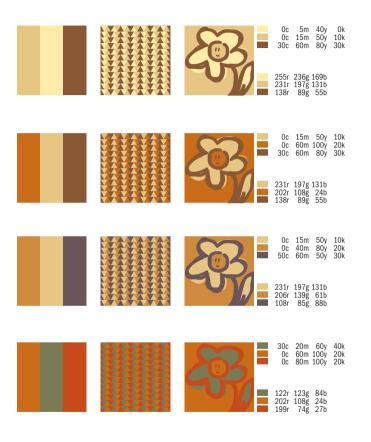






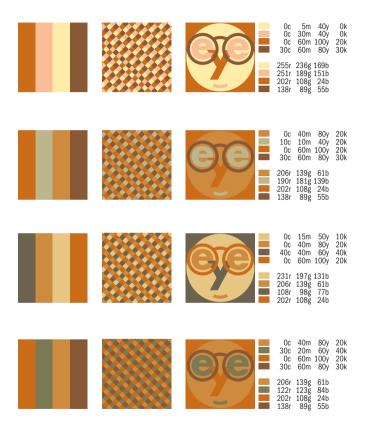


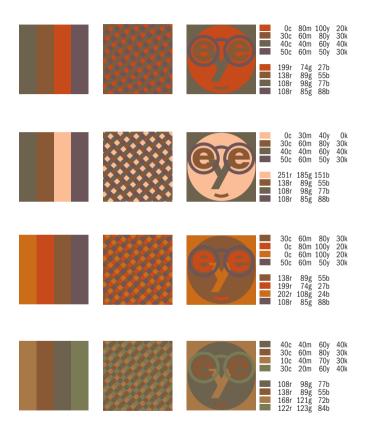
#### NATURAL





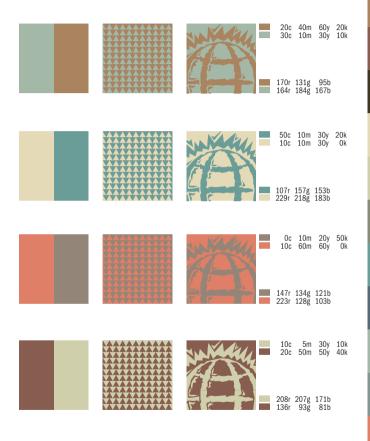
#### NATURAL

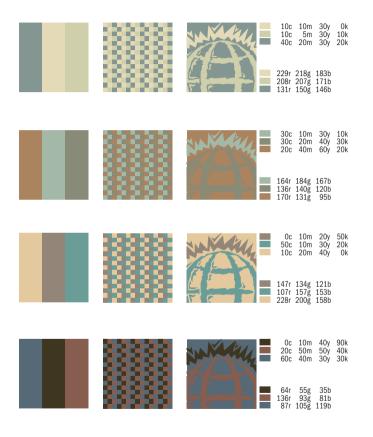


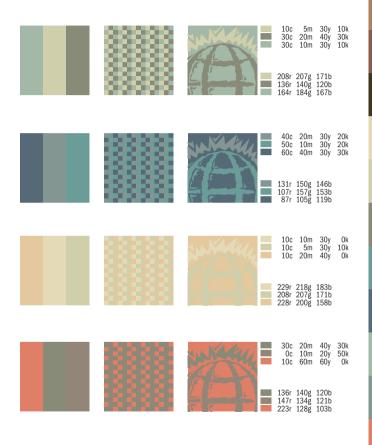


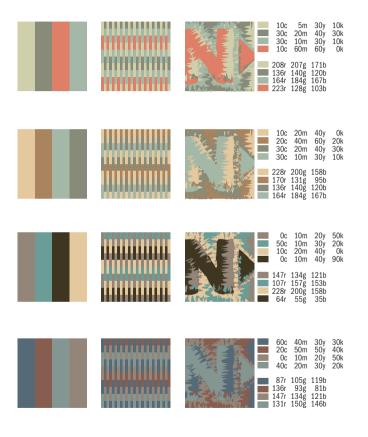














This spread addresses a variety of factors that ought to be considered when finalizing colors for a job that will be printed using an offset printing press.

# On-screen vs. on paper

Designers who use a computer to create artwork that will be offset printed must be aware that the colors they see on-screen will not match the colors of ink on paper.

A process color guide (a preprinted book that displays different mixes of CMYK inks) is a good tool for checking the on-screen representation of a color against the way it will appear as inks on paper. Refer to these guides when choosing colors to get a reasonably accurate idea of what your on-screen colors will look like when they are coming off the printing press.

## **Proofs**

If you have a high quality inkjet printer, you may be able to calibrate your machine to provide an accurate proof of your jobs before sending them out for offset printing.

Usually, however, your best bet is to ask the company who is going to print your job to provide a proof of the greatest possible accuracy. Inspect this proof carefully before allowing the job to go to press; ask the printer if they foresee any problems with any of the colors; and, if you are happy with the proof, sign off on it and ask the printer to match the sample you have signed when they are printing the job.

Always talk to the printer before a job goes to press and thoroughly discuss the many variables that may come into play when a job goes to press. Also, ask the printer if they will permit you to "press check" the job (to be present when the job is being printed and to have a say in the adjustments being made in terms of color accuracy).

## Paper

This book has been printed on a coated stock—a good paper for displaying color with accuracy and consistency.

Dull, matte, satin, semigloss or high gloss papers will display colors of ink differently than this stock.

Talk to your printer about paper-related variables and look at samples of jobs printed on various stocks to get an idea of what you can expect when your project is printed.

Because printing inks are not opaque, inks printed on nonwhite stocks will be tinted by the paper's color. If desired, adjustments can be made to a document to compensate for the effect a paper's tint will have on the CMYK inks being used for printing.

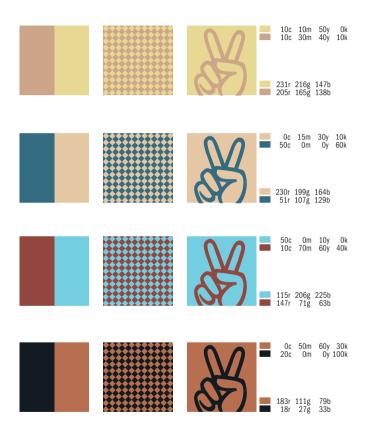
Paper choice is a crucial factor to discuss with your printer— especially if you intend to use a non-white stock.

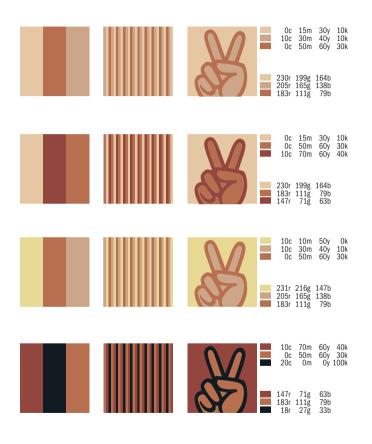
CMYK vs. Spot Color CMYK colors are a mixture of various densities of cyan, magenta, yellow and black inks. Spot colors are pre-mixed inks that conform to a color-matching system such as the popular Pantone Matching System (PMS).

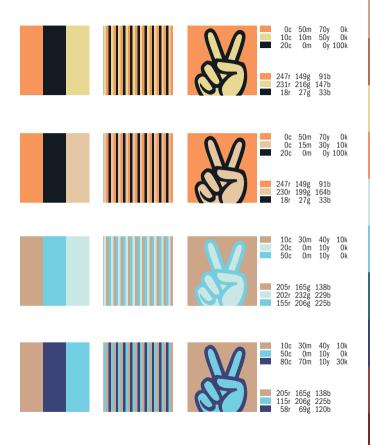
It is often cheaper to print a job using one or two spot colors than it is to and produce the job using CMYK inks (simply because the cost of printing often depends on the number of inks a printer has to load into the press).

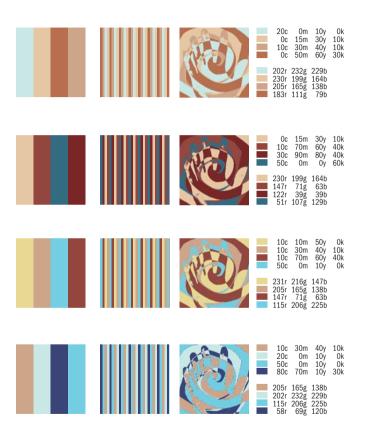


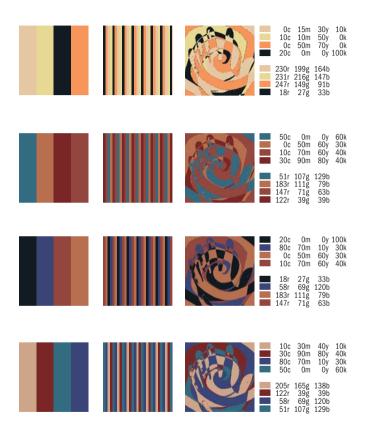






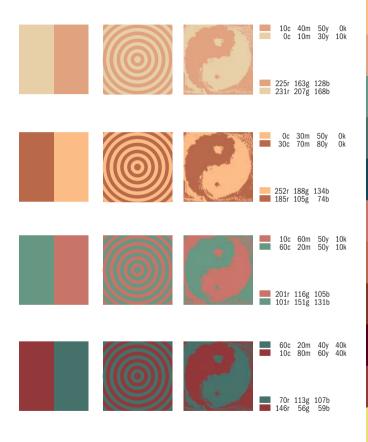


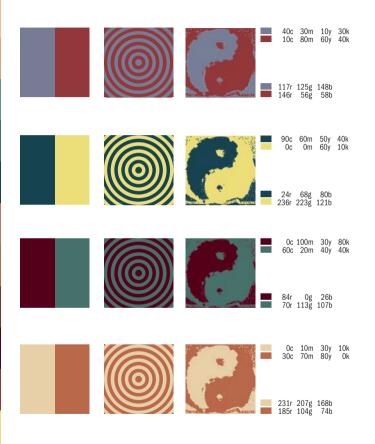


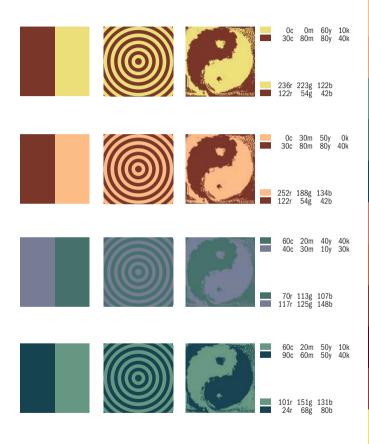


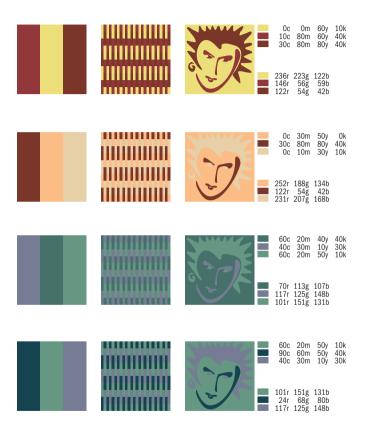


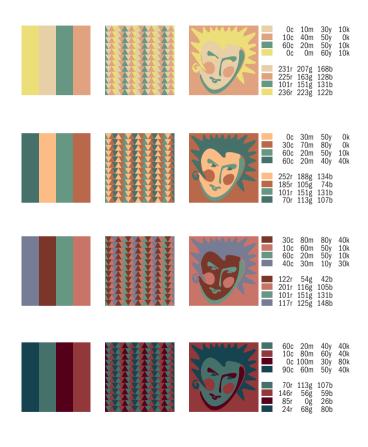


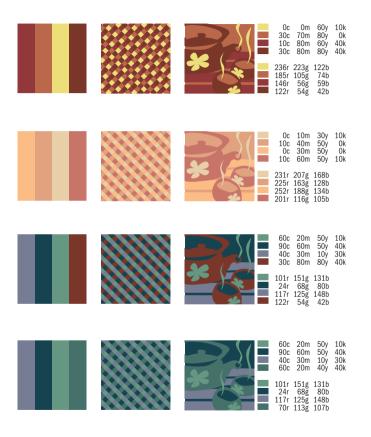














# 9: ACCENT

A color that stands out in relation to other nearby hues is often referred to as an "accent" color. The palettes in this chapter feature one accent color, and two or three supporting hues (colors that are generally more muted, lighter or darker than the accent color).

Images and messages of great impact can result when the right balance of restraint and power are found through content and color. Compositions that make use of an accent color to call attention to a particular visual element are often seen in works of advertising, design and fine arts. The element being highlighted might be typographic, image-oriented, or an emphasized detail within an image or block of text.

How about employing the effects of color to bring attention to a certain element in a visual project of your own? Start out by first selecting a "starring" hue, then use the examples in this chapter to generate a cast of colors that will support—and help set the stage for—your emphasized hue.

## Brainstorming Accent/ Supporting Colors:

Consider contrast: Intense against muted, light against dark, color against gray.

A hue's muted complement helps bring attention to the purer tone.

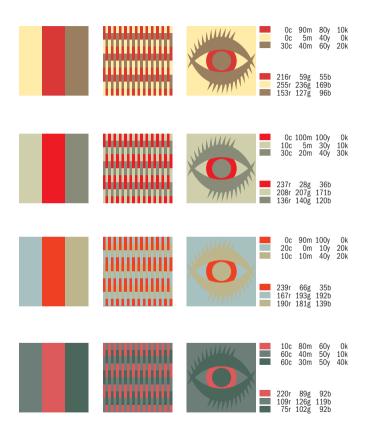
When a hue is placed next to a less saturated shade of itself, the original hue looks more intense than before.

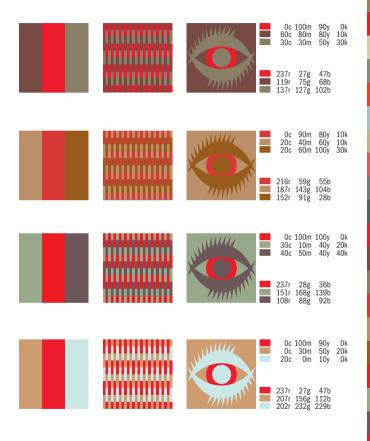
To access the downloadable digital swatches for the palettes in Color Index, Revised Edition, visit www.mydesignshop.com/swatches.

Attention can be directed to an intense accent color by surrounding it with muted tones.

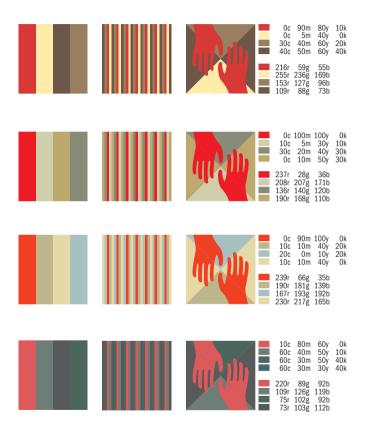
Sometimes less is more; sometimes less is a bore: Should your accent color be used sparingly or prominently?

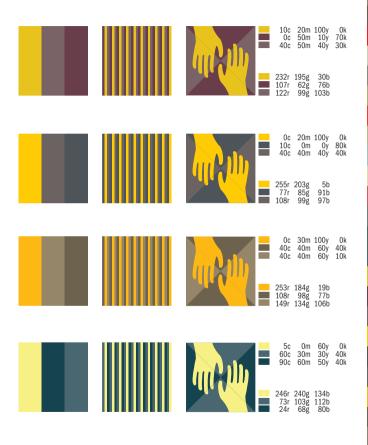
The computer makes experimentation easy and quick: Explore your options when it comes to deciding how—and how much—to use an accent color in a layout or illustration.

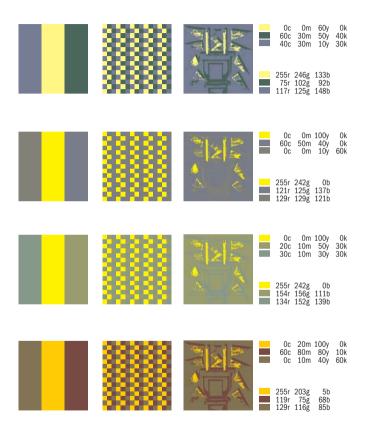




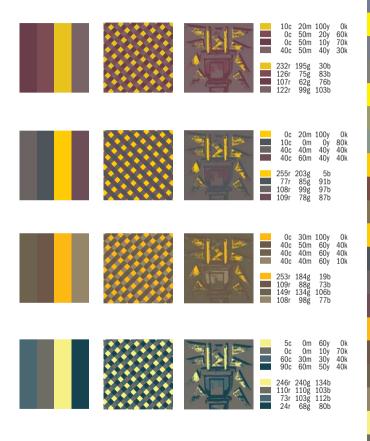
#### ACCENT

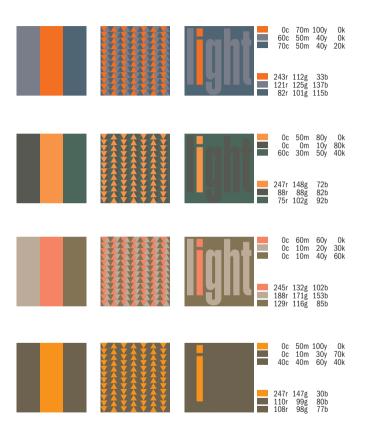


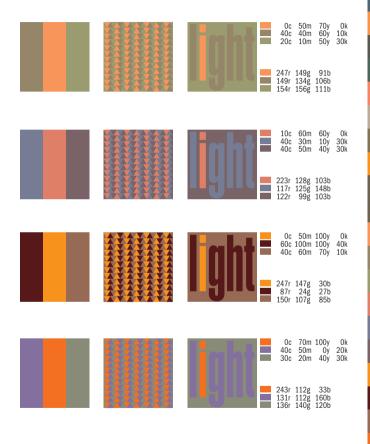


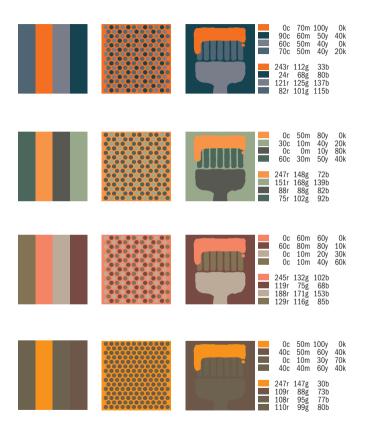


#### MIXED COMBINATIONS

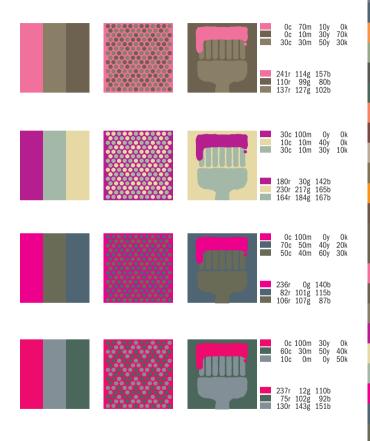








#### MIXED COMBINATIONS

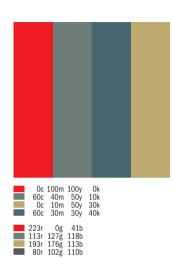




#### MIXED COMBINATIONS



# FOCUS ON VARIATION ON A THEME

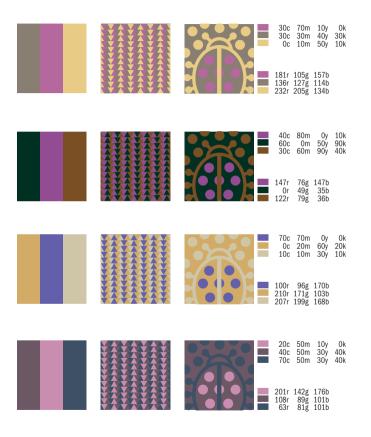


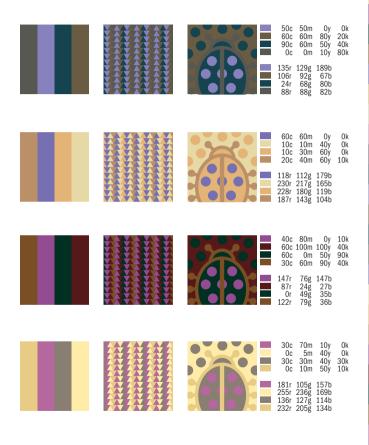
After the search for a palette has been narrowed or finalized, spend time experimenting with different ways of assigning its colors to your image or design.

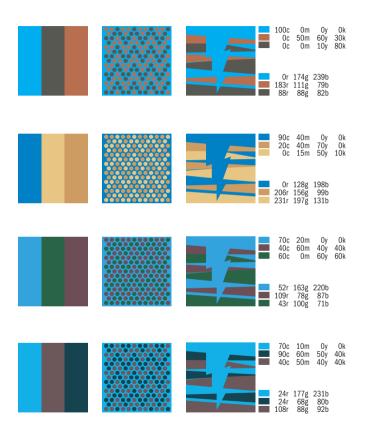
Use the computer to try out variations. Take advantage of digital media's ability to make creative exploration easy and quick—you may be surprised how often you find solutions that are as effective as they are unanticipated.

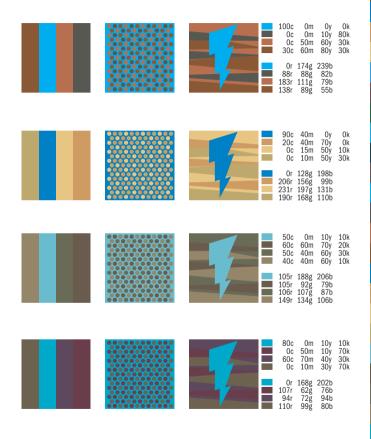
Here, a set of four colors has been used to color the samples at right. Notice how the look and feel of the image changes as the colors' roles are shifted.

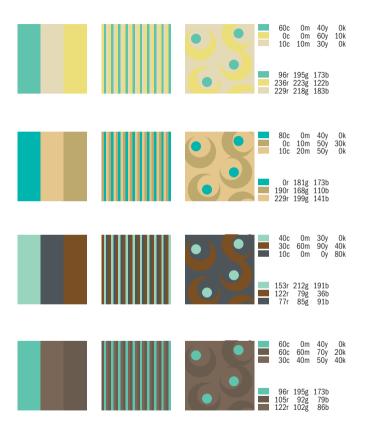


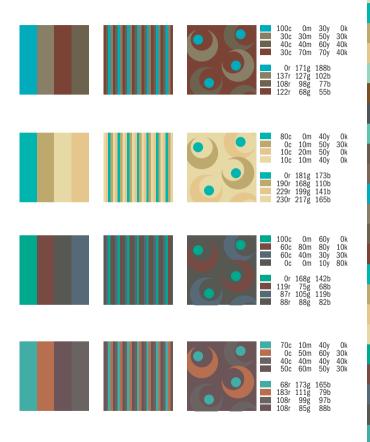


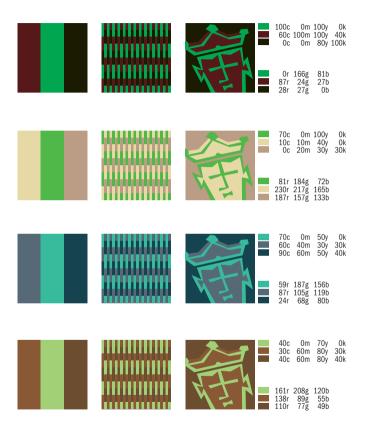


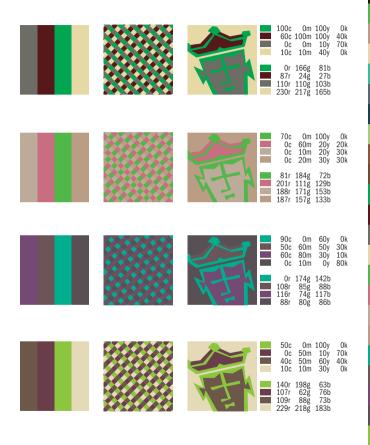


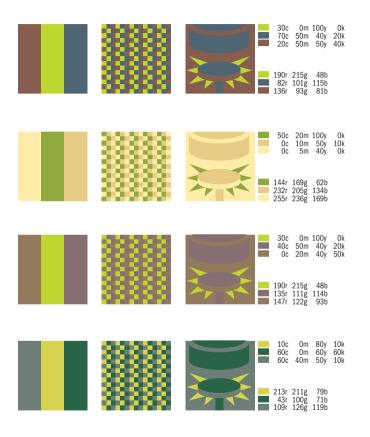




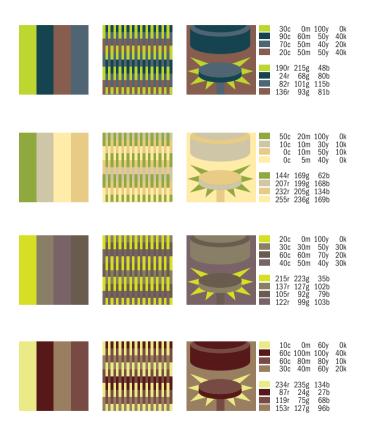








#### MIXED COMBINATIONS



### 10: LOGO IDEAS

Businesses often choose an economical color presentation for their logo that includes black plus one other color as the foundation of their visual identity. Use this chapter to help find simple color ideas for logo projects. (Or, use it to find color combinations for other visual projects that might be well suited for a palette of black, grays and one color.)

Note: this book has been printed using four-color process printing. If you find a color combination on the pages ahead that appeals to you—and want to apply it to items such as stationery or business cards—you may want to find a spot color (from a pre-mixed ink system such as Pantone's) to use in place of the CMYK mixes shown here. This will probably be the most cost-effective way to proceed.

## Brainstorming Colors for Logos:

Which colors best support the look your client wishes to project?

Should more than one hue be chosen to color the logo you are working on?

Should a palette of supporting colors be established for other material which will be used by the client?

To access the downloadable digital swatches for the palettes in Color Index, Revised Edition, visit www.mydesignshop.com/swatches.

Gain a better understanding of the color preferences of your client's customers by taking a good look at the media these customers respond to.

Does your client understand that their personal color preferences may not match the tastes of their customers? How can this notion be tactfully imparted to the client?

What types of media will the client be applying their corporate color(s) to? Will the colors you offer them work well within these media?

0m 100y 0k

0m 0y 40k

0b

0m 0y 40k

0m 0y 40k

0m 60y 0k

0m 0y 40k 0y 60k

0y 100k

0m

0m 0ý 60k 0y 100k

0m

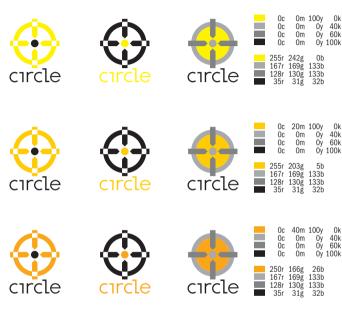
0y 100k

0m 0y 60k 0m

0m

0y 60k

0y 100k





















128r 130g 133b 35r 31g

























35r 31g 32b

















128r 130g 133b 35r 31g 32b









cırcle









221r 110g 122b 167r 169g 133b 128r 130g 133b 35r 31g 32b





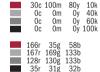




























cırcle

224r 144g 108b 167r 169g 133b 128r 130g 133b 35r 31g 32b

















128r 130g 133b 35r 31g 32b

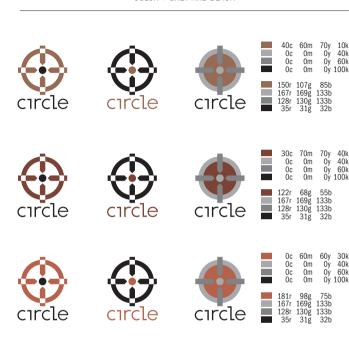






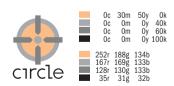


e circle























30c 100m 40y 0k 0c 0m 0y 40k 0c 0m 0y 60k 0m 0v 100k







182r 36g 103b 167r 169g 133b 128r 130g 133b 35r 31g 32b





















cırcle









35r 31g













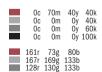






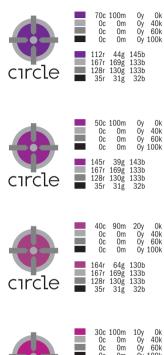






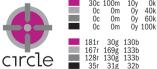
35r 31g



















35r 31g







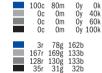


35r 31g 32b







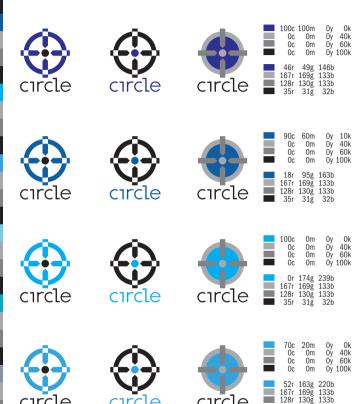












circle

cırcle

35r 31g 32b









128r 130g 133b 35r 31g

circle





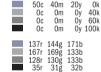


35r 31g 32b









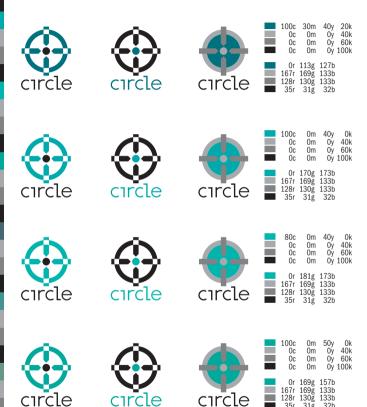








cırcle



35r 31g 32b









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35r 31g 32b





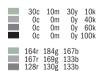




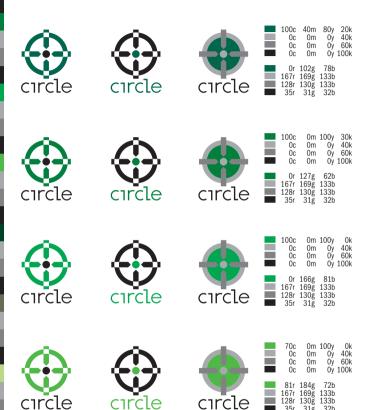






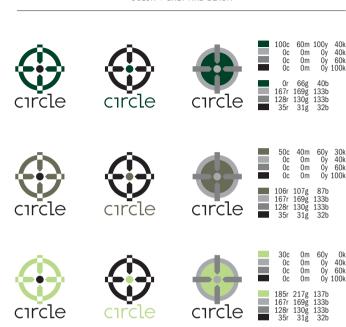


35r 31g



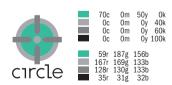
128r 130g 133b 35r

31g 32b



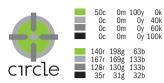






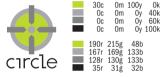






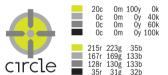






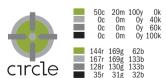


















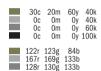


128r 130g 133b 35r 31g







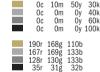


35r 31g

















### 11: BROWSER SAFE

Browser safe colors are the 216 hues that can be shown on traditional 8-bit computer screens with reasonable consistency and without dithering (see pages 340–341 for more on browser safe hues).

Although it's a less critical consideration than before (since the latest generation of computer screens can handle color much more effectively than earlier models), some businesses still choose to select a palette of on-screen colors from the browser safe list to ensure that their visuals will look good on both newer and older electronic display devices.

Please note that since the samples here have been printed using ink and paper, their on-screen appearance will be different. It is also important to understand that the type of monitor used (as well as the settings that have been applied to that monitor) will have an effect on the hues' appearances.

To access the downloadable digital swatches for the palettes in Color Index, Revised Edition, visit www.mydesignshop.com/swatches.

## Brainstorming Browser Safe Colors:

Does your client adhere to an established set of colors? Can a browser safe palette be chosen that will closely match these colors? Will compromises have to be made in order to come up with a browser safe palette?

Investigate your choices on a number of displays, including laptop and flatscreen monitors.

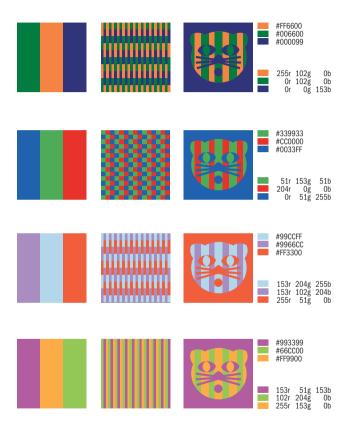
Keep in mind that the way a certain color looks on your monitor may not match its appearance on other display devices.

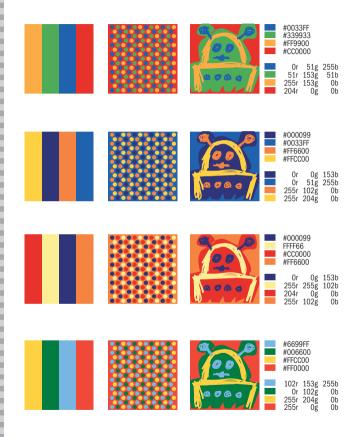
Keep an eye on the Web. What are the trends? What types of color combinations feel fresh? Which ones seem stale?

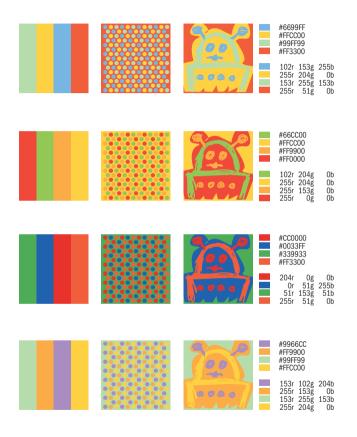
And what about a backdrop for your browser safe palette? Black? Gray? Colored? Multicolored? Busy? Plain?

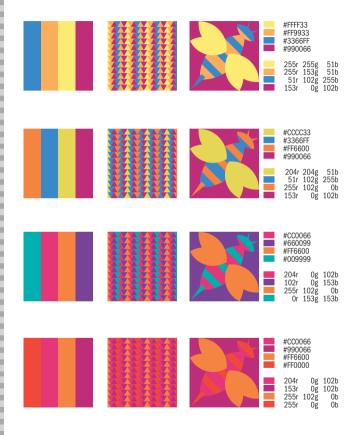
#### BROWSER SAFE

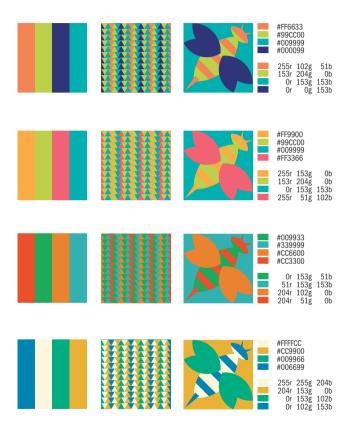




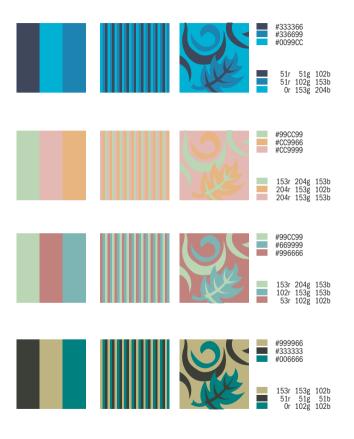


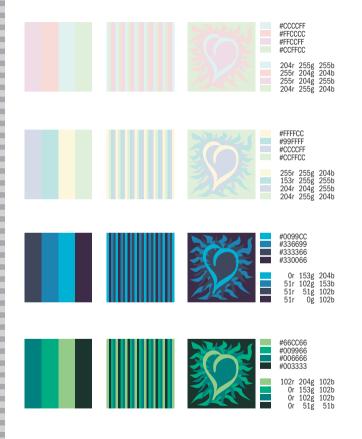


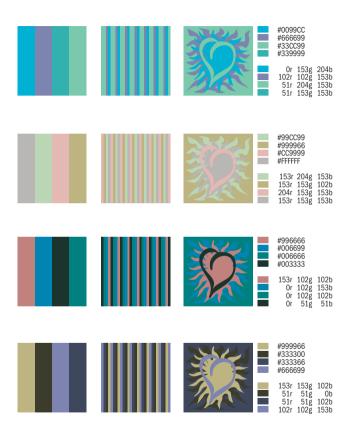


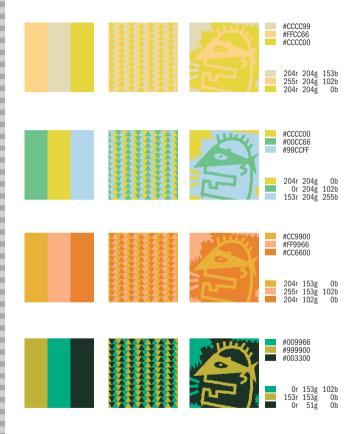


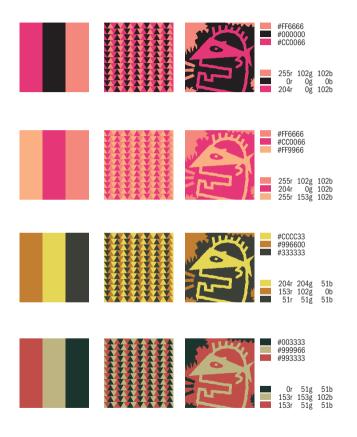


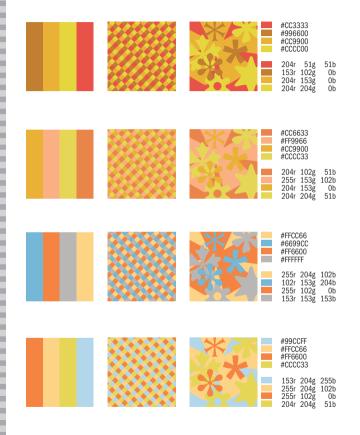


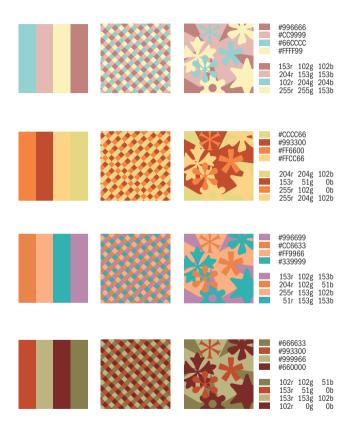


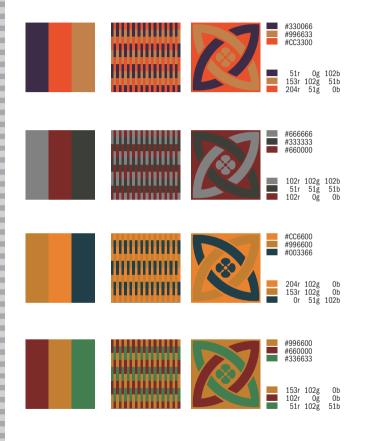


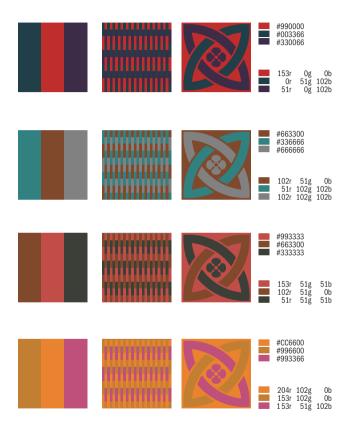


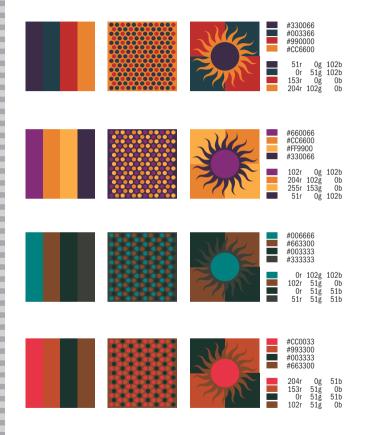




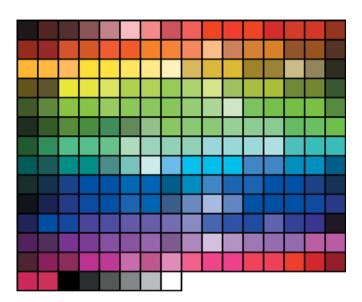












A nice thing about designing for the Web is that you don't have to pay extra for extra colors (as you usually do with print media).

The table above shows the 216 colors of the browser safe palette. (Keep in mind that the on-screen appearance of these colors will differ from their ink-on-paper appearance.)

These browser safe colors are the 216 hues that display most consistently, and without dithering (the inclusion of unsightly dots within a plane of color) on traditional 8-bit monitors.



Images and graphics that feature only flat areas of color might be good candidates for a browser safe approach. A designer may choose to use colors from the browser safe palette to ensure that all of the hues will display without dithering on older monitors.

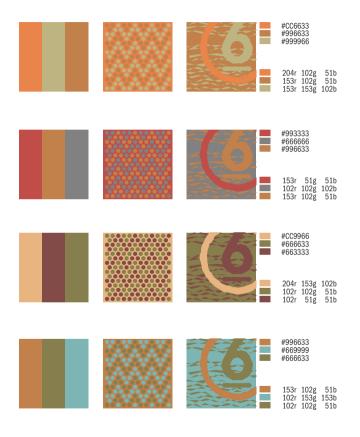


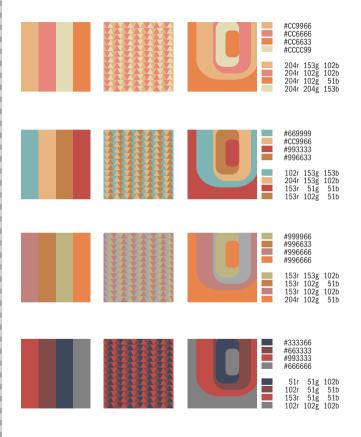
A continuous-tone illustration or photograph does not need to be limited to the browser safe palette. This is because the dithering that occurs is largely unnoticeable to the eye since it is masked by the many changes in hue that occur throughout the image.

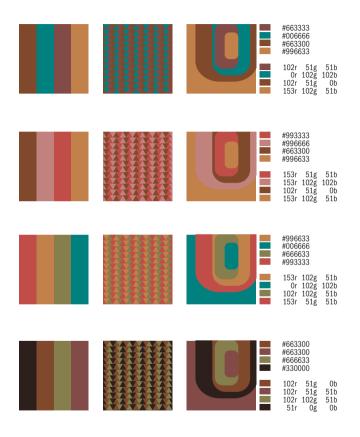
Remember: color images designed for on-screen presentation are always at the mercy of the viewer's platform, monitor, and the respective settings of each. Some systems, for instance, tend to darken colors significantly and might even display some of the darker on-screen hues as black. Other systems tend to be overly light, and have a hard time displaying lighter hues without converting them to white or very light pastels It is a good idea to view your artwork on a number of display devices (including laptop and flat-screen monitors) to make sure the colors you've chosen look good on a variety of systems.

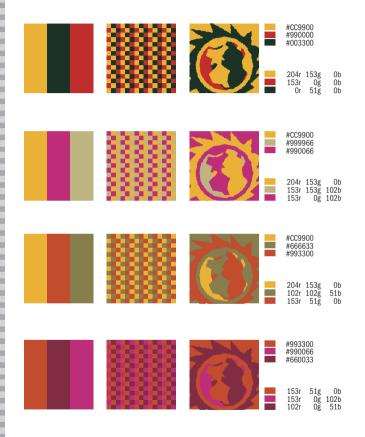


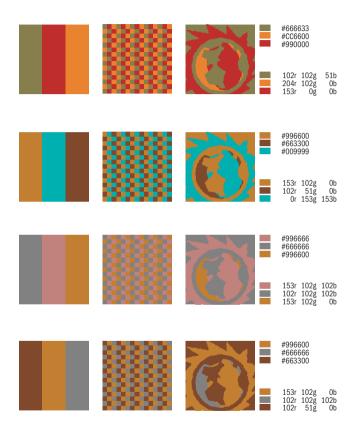
#### MUTED

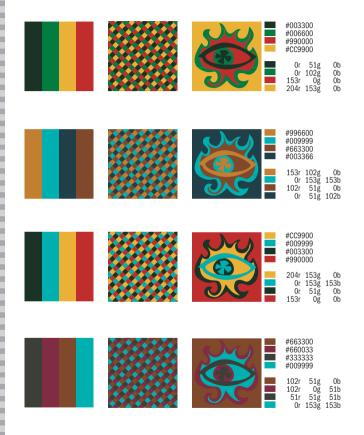


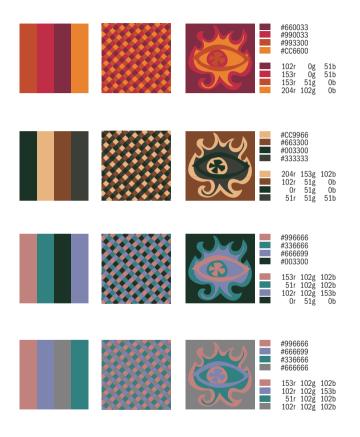




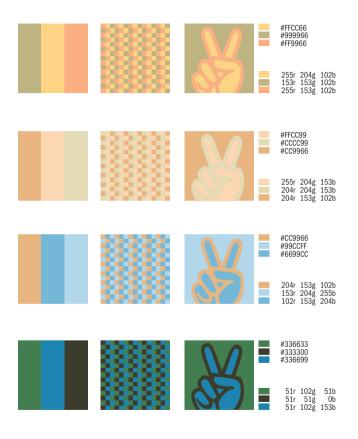


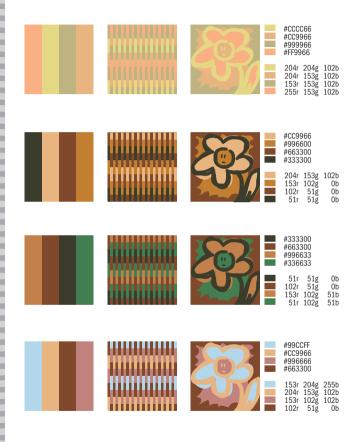


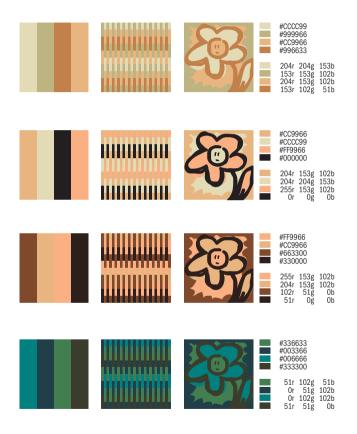


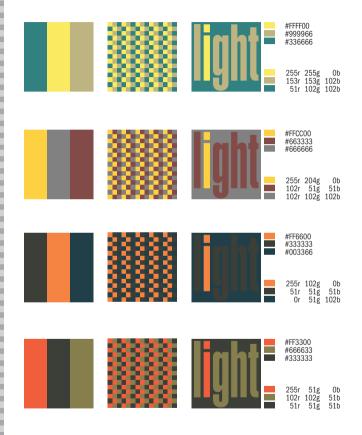


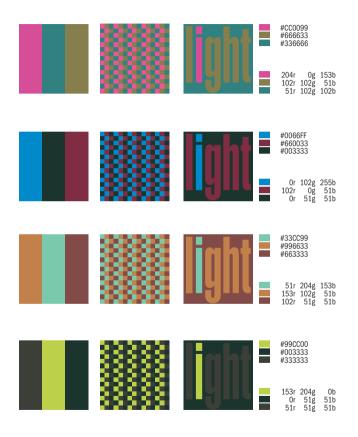










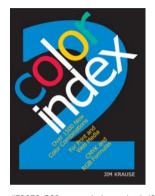




#### ACCENT



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